

Hafa Adai!

Kapileo is second DORE graduate. **PAGE 2**
Manglona issues show cause order vs Patrick Calvo. **PAGE 6**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 14

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY JANUARY 22, 2018

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75¢

Bill bats extending CW until 2029

3-year intervals for proposed CW-3



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Sen. Lisa Murkowski pose in this photo taken in June 2016 in Washington, D.C. as part of the CNMI Senator's 902 consultations.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the congressional working group tasked with coming up with legislation to extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program beyond its 2019 expiration

date has completed negotiations and introduced a proposed legislation on the U.S. Senate floor.

During a U.S. Senate session, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced legislation to extend the CW-1 program beyond 2019, including provisions to bump the CW cap limit to

See BILL on Page 4



FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Saipan's community joined thousands of marchers around the world for the 2018 Women's March at 4pm yesterday along the Beach Road Pathway. They took to the streets to voice the importance of all women's issues.

CLAIRE GROVE

See story on
page 15

Fed govt shutdown worries Torres

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has expressed concern over the federal government shutdown, which started midnight of Jan. 20, 2018, exactly one year since U.S. President Donald J. Trump took office.

Knowing that there are several federal employees in the CNMI affected by the shutdown, Torres is also concerned about local government agencies that have frequent communications with federal offices, such as the Bureau of Environmental and

RELATED NEWS

- Shutdown divides services into essential and non-essential. **PAGE 14**
- Geysers yes, Ellis Island no: Some US parks open, some not. **PAGE 14**
- Democrats, GOP exchange charges of blame for shutdown. **PAGE 15**

Coastal Quality.

"We have many of our friends and family furloughed during this

See FED on Page 4

Joseph S. Inos is Dems' gubernatorial bet

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Joseph S. Inos, a former Senate president and Rota mayor, will be running for CNMI governor under the Democratic Party banner in the November general election.

The Democratic Party announced the party's candidate for governor at the Grandvrio Resort's Tropicana Restaurant last Friday night. According to a party resolution, Inos' eight years of experience, his vision, and the depth of his legislative

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INSIDE



ASIA

Gunmen storm the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, killing at least five people.

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WORLD

Pope Francis is wrapping up the most contested, violent trip of his papacy.

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FOCUS

Not all South Koreans are happy about sharing a team with North Korea.

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Local

Kapileo is 2nd DORE graduate



Norman D. Kapileo, in green robe, poses with three other participants of the Drug Offender Re-entry Program, DORE committee members, and U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona during a session and graduation ceremony in federal court last Thursday. Kapileo, who served a prison term in connection with a bank robbery in 2002, is the second person to graduate from the DORE Program.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

supervised release graduated from the federal court's Drug Offender Re-entry Program last Thursday.

A man who served 178 months in prison for a bank robbery on Saipan in 2002 and was placed on three years of

44-year-old Norman D. Kapileo during the DORE Program graduation ceremony.

Manglona praised Kapileo for his positive adjustment and for completing the program. She also expressed pride as it was the second month where

all four DORE participants have all tested negative for use of illegal drugs.

Manglona said that Kapileo impressed her as he only joined the program in

At the ceremony, Juanette David-Atalig of U.S. Probation had Kapileo's term of supervised release reduced by one year. Manglona granted this.

With the reduction, Kapileo's supervised release would supposedly end on April 17, 2018. But U.S. probation officer Gregory F. Arriola also asked the court that the case be terminated early.

Arriola said that Kapileo has already served one year and nine months of his supervised release. He noted that

Kapileo submitted a DNA sample, satisfied his special assessment fee, is employed,

and has complied with his substance abuse requirements and has consistently tested negative for the illicit substances and alcohol use.

Manglona granted Arriola's motion and ordered that Kapileo be discharged from supervision.

Manglona also commended the three other DORE participants—Daniel M. Quitugua, Roque S. Norita, and Ryan T. Babauta—for attending all counseling sessions, drug test dates, and for testing negative for illegal drugs use.

Former U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer Bob Hajime Deleon Yamagishi was the first to graduate from the program last month. He attended Thursday's ceremony to show his support.

DORE/Drug Court is a post-incarceration cooperative effort program of the U.S. District Court, U.S. Probation Office, Federal Public Defender, and U.S. Attorney's Office.

DORE provides treatment and sanction alternatives to address re-integration into the community for non-violent, substance abuse offenders released from federal prison.

Sponsors sought for 'Adopt-a-Post' campaign

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is moving forward with its "Adopt-a-Post" project that has been in the works since 2017. The concept is to mount a couple of flower baskets on the lamposts along Beach Road and have

private companies or groups take care of them.

According to mayor's office special assistant Henry Hofsneider, the Saipan Mayor's Office ordered about 100 hanging flower baskets in November and they only arrived on Saipan last Jan. 1. The baskets were cleared about a week after arrival.

The baskets are from Japan and are made of the best quality so it could withstand the island's tough weather for a prolonged period of time, Hofsneider said.

He said the mayor's office is expecting a visit from a professional Japanese landscape artist to brief them, and interested basket sponsors, on how to properly plant seedlings in the baskets, how to mount them, and how to properly care for them.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is now looking for sponsors to care for the lamposts once the baskets are up. Sponsors can be businesses, agencies, a family, or even individuals who just want to help maintain the new addition to the island's beautification project.

Sponsors will only be responsible for maintaining the basket's aesthetic appearance and maintaining the lampost's surroundings. They will not be charged by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

The mayor's office will start mounting baskets on the lamposts starting from the Borja Funeral Home up until the intersection by the Hard Rock Café Saipan.

The entire project costs about \$2,500 and was paid through public funding. Interested sponsors can call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 for additional information and to volunteer as sponsors.



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Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000
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RESULTS

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Navy, DOD oppose groups' request to submit 4 additional documents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense are opposing the request of four environmental and cultural preservation groups to compel the Navy to add more documents to the record in the groups' lawsuit over the Navy's decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan.

The U.S. Navy and DOD asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the groups' request because they failed to show that the Navy considered those documents in connection with the Guam relocation decisions.

The documents refer to an assessment of current training ranges and supporting facilities in the U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility dated April 2012 and revised March 2013, and the final CNMI joint military training requirements and siting study dated January 2013 and revised March 2013.

The other documents being sought are the March 14, 2013, *Federal Register* notice announcing the Navy's intent to prepare the CNMI joint mil-

itary training environmental impact statement overseas environmental impact statement, and the draft CNMI joint military training environmental impact statement overseas environmental impact statement dated April 2015.

The groups—the Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity—are suing the U.S. Navy, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer, DOD, and DOD Secretary James Mattis for alleged violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedure Act.

Earthjustice filed the lawsuit on behalf of the groups.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona had already granted the Navy's and Defense's motion to dismiss the groups' second claim that the Navy and Defense violated NEPA by failing to consider alternative locations for sending Marines from Okinawa.

That second claim was dismissed with prejudice, which means the groups cannot refile the claim.

Their remaining claim before the court alleges that the U.S. Navy failed to evaluate in a single environmental impact statement two separate pro-

grams: the relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and the proposed training programs for U.S. Pacific Forces on Tinian and Pagan.

On Nov. 9, 2017, the U.S. Navy turned over to the court over 14,000 documents representing its administrative record of the decisions.

Last Jan. 12, the Navy submitted additional documents that were "inadvertently omitted" from the filed record.

The four groups now want the court to compel the U.S. Navy to add four more documents to the record.

In their opposition, the U.S. Navy and DOD, through Taylor N. Ferrell, trial attorney of the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental & Natural Resources Division, said the groups must provide

clear evidence that the Navy considered the documents in preparing its 2010 final environmental impact statement and 2015 supplemental environmental impact statement for the relocation of Marines to Guam.

Ferrell said the four groups have failed to meet that burden.

Ferrell said the Pacific Command training needs assessment, the CNMI joint training study, the CNMI joint military training *Federal Register* notice, and the CNMI draft environmental impact statement overseas statement are all outside of the scope of the 2010 final environmental impact statement and 2015 supplemental environmental impact statement because those documents were pre-

pared as part of a separate, ongoing federal action.

Thus, Ferrell said, the Navy's decision-makers for the Guam relocation did not incorporate the Pacific training the CNMI joint military training documents into the Guam relocation NEPA process or otherwise consider those documents when making the decision to relocate the Marines to Guam.

Although the Guam final environmental impact statement and supplemental environmental impact statement

mention the ongoing efforts by the DOD and Navy to assess training needs in the Pacific region and to fulfill those needs through the CNMI joint military training, Ferrell said the Navy did not consider the four documents in arriving at its decision regarding the relocation of Marines to Guam.

With Manglona's ruling that denied the defendants' motion to dismiss the claims, Earthjustice attorney David Henkin said they are thankful that the judge reaffirmed that the military is not above the law.

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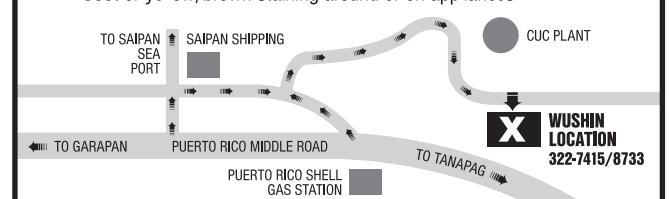
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Map showing gas distribution network in Saipan. Key locations include: SAIPAN SEA PORT, SAIPAN SHIPPING, CUC PLANT, PUERTO RICO MIDDLE ROAD, PUERTO RICO SHELL GAS STATION, TO GARAPAN, TO TANAPAG, and WUSHIN LOCATION 322-7415/8733.

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The image shows the interior of Kevin's Prime Rib & Seafood restaurant. The ceiling is high with a red and black geometric pattern. A large, illuminated sign on the wall reads "KEVIN'S The Prime Rib & Seafood" in a stylized, glowing font. The floor is made of dark wood planks. In the background, a dining area with tables and chairs is visible.

Initiating change within indigenous communities

The Pacific Islands Bilingual-Bicultural Association Guam Chapter will have a public presentation and conversation with Dr. Deborah Ellen on Saturday, Jan. 27, from

11am to noon at the University of Guam, HSS106. Her presentation title is, "If you wanted to change a culture in a single generation, how would you do it? Ellen, a

longtime educator and proponent of educational reform and indigenous rights, asks the questions: In what ways can the implementation of English and Western

education impact indigenous communities? How do circumstances within Guam's educational system compare to other indigenous communities? What can we learn from the work of others within indigenous communities in re-

JOSEPH

From Page 1

experience have prepared him for the position of governor.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for Inos' statements about his candidacy.

Last November, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres confirmed his intent to run for re-election, with Senate president Arnold I. Palacios as his running mate under the Republican Party.

The Democratic Party's chief executive officer, Stephen Woodruff, told *Saipan Tribune* that the party's

Central Executive Committee presented Inos on Friday with a resolution that named three potential lieutenant governor candidates he could choose from.

The three are former representative Tina Sablan, Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), and former Public School System commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan. The three were not present during the party's announcement.

Woodruff said the CEC views the three as excellent choices as potential lieutenant governor bets and suggested their names for consideration by Inos.

He said the CEC may add

other names at a later time, and Inos may also identify other possible running mates. Woodruff said that Inos will make the final decision in consultation with the committee.

The Democratic Party said that, despite his considerable success, Inos remains a humble man who takes an interest in everyone he meets and respects the dignity of every individual. The party said that Inos has demonstrated over 30 years of integrity, dedication, and service to the people of the CNMI.

Inos served 16 years in the Senate, from the 1st through the 8th Commonwealth Leg-

islature representing Rota. He served as floor leader in the 4th and 6th Legislature. He served as Senate president in the 7th and 8th Legislature.

Inos was first elected mayor of Rota as a Democrat in 1993. He was elected Rota mayor again in 2005.

As mayor, Inos made significant contributions to clarifying the relationship between municipalities and the central government of the CNMI, the Democratic Party said.

He is the brother of the late governor, Eloy S. Inos.

The Democratic Party is led by its chair, Daniel Quitugua.

the suggestion of the Trump Administration that even if a constitutional violation was found, the remedy would be to contract rather than expand voting rights in U.S. territories.

"The right to vote should not depend on your zip code or where you happen to live. We are disappointed the court found no issue with laws that extend absentee voting rights to citizens living in the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa or a foreign country, while denying these same rights to citizens living in Guam, Puerto Rico, or the Northern Mariana Islands," said Neil Weare, president and founder of We the People Project, a non-profit that advocates for equal rights and rep-

resentation in U.S. territories.

"There is simply no basis for treating residents of one territory differently from those of another when it comes to something as basic as the right to vote."

Plaintiffs will make a decision whether to appeal the Seventh Circuit's decision to the Supreme Court in the coming weeks. They have until April 18, 2018, to petition the Supreme Court to review the case.

All case filings are available at <http://www.equalrightsnow.org/segovia>.

Luis Segovia, the lead plaintiff, is a member of the Guam Army National Guard, serving two deployments to Afghanistan. He also was deployed to provide security during the

2005 Iraqi elections. Also serving as plaintiffs in Guam are Anthony Bunten, another veteran, and the Iraq, Afghanistan and Persian Gulf veterans of the Pacific. Attorney Leevin Camacho serves as local counsel.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, plaintiffs include Pamela Colon, a criminal defense lawyer, Lavonne Wise, and the League of Women Voters for the Virgin Islands. Attorney Semaj Johnson serves as local counsel.

In Puerto Rico, plaintiffs include Jose Antonio Torres, a disabled Vietnam-era veteran who also served for 22 years in the U.S. postal service, and Tomas Ares, another Vietnam-era veteran. (PR)

13,000 and setting a new CW visa category for legacy workers that would be renewable every three years.

The panel also embraced

the suggestion of the Trump Administration that even if a constitutional violation was found, the remedy would be to contract rather than expand voting rights in U.S. territories.

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BILL

From Page 1

13,000 and setting a new CW visa category for legacy workers that would be renewable every three years.

The proposed bill is called the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

The working group, led by Murkowski, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and more, came up with the provisions for the bill, including a sunset provision that would extend the CW program by 10 more years—stretching the transition period to 2029, effectively extending the CW program, the E-2C visa for foreign investors, and the bar on asylum claims in the CNMI.

Provisions embedded in the proposal also sets the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 at 13,000; however, the annual limit would be reduced by 500 every year starting fiscal year 2020. The new cap limit, if passed into law, would override U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services' cap of 4,999 for fiscal year 2019.

Foreign workers who have been working in the CNMI for the last five years, or since fiscal year 2014, would be eligible for the new CW-3 visa category, which would be renewable every three years.

CW-3 holders who wish to have their permit renewed would, however, have to exit the CNMI for 30 days during the six-month renewal period as a requirement.

"The CW-3 permit will give our local businesses that have legacy workers more certainty year-in and year-out and reduce business costs. ... Business will still be required to pay annually into the training fund for local workers," said Sablan in a statement.

"I thank [Murkowski] and all the members of the working group," Sablan said. "We have put in many long hours of discussion in person, on the phone, and by email to reach this point of agreement," he said, adding that early on in the discussions, several White House officials

were against the extension, with Torres as a member of the group that was working with Murkowski.

"Senator Murkowski has been very gracious with my staff and I over the last several months on this particular bill, dating as far back as June 2016 when we had our 902 consultations. I thank her and all the members of her working group for their collaboration. I especially want to thank her for holding off on the introduction of the bill until after I provided my input on the draft. I am glad that the bill was able to include some of my recommendations, such as extending the program to 2029, instead of 2024 as previously drafted and eliminating the Guam reference on minimum wage," Torres said, adding that Murkowski has informed him that the hearing on the bill would commence on Feb. 6, 2018.

"...Further discussions will allow for more additions to the bill about the CNMI's economic needs and its commitment to increasing its U.S. workforce," the statement adds.

Guam Chapter president Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522 or secretary Lois Gumataotao at 727-5647. (PR)

against the bill.

Senators that opposed the spending bill reportedly refused to support the spending measure until a deal is struck with Trump on disaster relief efforts, opioid treatment support, and immigration issues, such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program established in 2012 by former president Barack Obama.

DACA deferred deportation for an estimated 700,000 individuals, most of whom entered the U.S. illegally as minors. Trump rescinded DACA on Sept. 5, 2017, leaving an estimated 800,000 individuals for deportation; however implementation of the rescission would ensue after six months to give the U.S. Congress time to figure out how to deal with those affected.

Democratic leaders believe that tying DACA discussions to the spending measure is the best way to ensure its success.

Both parties refuse to budge during the first day of the federal government shutdown.

According to wire stories, the GOP offered a three-week quick fix with the promise to discuss immigration during those times; however, Democrats remain insistent on allowing only several days of reopening the federal government to pressure the GOP into talking immigration, while the Democrats threatened to kill the three-week fix.

One day into the government shutdown and still no agreement has been reached.

grows," the statement adds.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) agreed with Torres on pursuing the necessary tweaks to the bill.

"Through my conversation with stakeholders, the bill still needs some work and I look forward to working with Governor Torres in providing feedback to improve the bill further. The proposed cap will allow us to maintain what we have now, but I'm afraid it will not allow our economy to grow. We also need to continue discussions regarding construction workers as this policy would impact not just business developments, but also construction needs for roads, homes, schools, and churches," said Demapan in a statement.

Like Torres, NMBAC chair Alex Sablan expressed his gratitude for Murkowski and with others who helped with the legislation.

"Without her strong support for our islands, we would be in danger of losing all the economic momentum we have all worked so hard for over the last several years," he said.

Customs surpasses excise tax goal for fiscal year 2017

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Custom Services collected \$5 million more than expected in excise taxes in the last fiscal year. A portion of the funds will now go to procuring a new mobile scanner for the island's seaport.

According to Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, the department is working on putting together their revenue projection for fiscal year 2019, but in closing the previous revenue projection, she was proud to realize that the fiscal year 2017 projection was sur-

passed by over \$5 million.

"These guys [at the Division of Custom Services] surpassed what I thought they were going to do in a huge way...that was the biggest collection since I became secretary," she said.

Larson said the division ended the fiscal year last September with \$49.5 million in excise tax collection alone.

"Normally, when they surpass the projection, it's a smaller amount, so this is the biggest one. This was the biggest goal I gave them too so I am really proud of them," said Larson.

According to Larson, the

division was able to greatly surpass its goal by stepping up enforcement efforts and collection points.

"We've also done a lot of enforcement for people when they come in with unauthorized items, we penalize them as well so it's really helped a great deal as far as the economy goes," she said.

The division surpassing its goal only means economic growth—which Larson said the department has been striving for since she became a Finance official.

"For a long time, we were not meeting our projections

because we were in such bad fiscal state, so a lot of my time as secretary was focused on economic recovery," she said.

During the 7th Cycle Academy graduation ceremony last week, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that, with the division being able to collect as much excise tax as they did in the last fiscal year, it is only right that a portion is allocated to further equip customs officers.

"That's why I said we want to give customs officers more of their resources, for them to go out there and get what they need in order for them to do their work...So if there is \$5

million more than projected, I would like to give them back \$1 million for their [mobile scanner]," he said.

Torres said the mobile scanner that the government plans to buy for the division is a whole container x-ray, where a 40-foot container can be screened in one go.

"The whole 40-foot container, you can rotate and search more containers than just the single x-rays," said Torres.

Division of Customs Services director Jose Mafnas could not suppress his excitement at the idea of a new scanner. "I am excited for the new

mobile scanner that we are getting. I really appreciate the governor...he understands that we need to properly equip the ports and the entry because once we do that, other issues outside will be resolved," he said.

Mafnas said the new scanner could help address the methamphetamine epidemic because, if the drugs are found immediately at the ports, it won't have the opportunity to infiltrate the island. "It is the missing piece of equipment that we need," he said.

The new machine is expected sometime this year and will be used at the Port of Saipan.



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NEW CUSTOMS OFFICERS

Maelyn Naputi, fourth from left, poses for a photo with her family after the 7th Cycle Academy graduation ceremony last Thursday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Naputi was named class valedictorian.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Twenty-one cadets are sworn in as new Customs officers during the 7th Cycle Academy graduation ceremony last Thursday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

AMP remains open

The American Memorial Park is currently open to the public.

The Visitors Center, court of honor and flag circle, Marianas memorial, *carillon* bell tower, and Micro Beach areas are open and accessible to visitors.

"We are able to maintain operations, thanks to the generous support of our private non-profit partner, Pacific Historic Parks. Any additional updates to our operational status will be made via www.nps.gov/amme," the park said in a statement Sunday.

It clarified, though, that all information contained in the advisory is subject to change.

To contact the American Memorial Park Visitors Center, call 670-234-7207 Ext. 2020. (PR)

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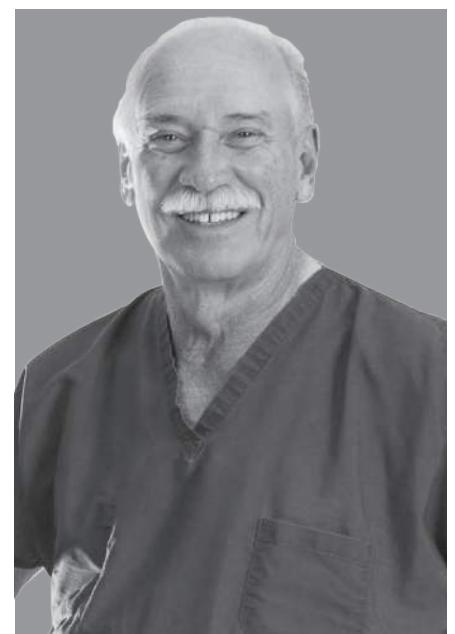
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CNMI 'opt-in' decision gives FirstNet clean sweep

Northern Mariana Islands Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has accepted the nationwide public-safety broadband network (NPSBN) deployment plan offered by FirstNet and AT&T, meaning all 56 states and territories in the U.S. have made an "opt-in" decision.

"Today, Gov. Torres made history," FirstNet CEO Mike Poth said in a prepared statement. "With his decision to join FirstNet, we are proud to have every U.S. state and territory on the nationwide public

safety broadband network.

"Gov. Torres' decision will help enhance emergency communications across the territory's rural and remote areas by bringing coverage and capacity to the islands. We look forward to continuing to work with public safety in the Northern Mariana Islands to help ensure that emergency first responders will have access to the most modern and innovative tools available today."

Under the law that estab-

lished FirstNet, governors in all 56 states and territories have the choice of making an "opt-in" decision—accepting the FirstNet deployment plan and allowing AT&T to build the LTE radio access network within the state's borders at no cost to the state—or pursuing the "opt-out" alternative, which would require the state to be responsible for building and maintaining the RAN for the next 25 years.

With Friday's Northern Mariana Islands announce-

ment, governors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories have made "opt-in" decisions. As a result, all processes associated with the "opt-out" alternative—reviews by the FCC, the National Information and Telecommunications Administration, as well as spectrum-lease negotiations with FirstNet—will not be needed.

"Opting in to FirstNet is a clear sign of Gov. Torres' commitment to public safety in the Northern Mariana Is-

lands," said Stephanie Tyler, president, AT&T Pacific Northwest. "First responders deserve the best possible communications platform, and we're honored to help deliver it for them."

Governors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands all announced "opt-in" decisions by their Dec. 28 deadline. The Northern Mariana Islands and two other Pacific territories—Guam and American Samoa—had until March 12 to make their "opt-in/opt-out" decisions, because they did not receive FirstNet deployment plans until December. Governors for Guam and American Samoa made their "opt-in" announcements earlier this month.

With their early "opt-in" decisions, all three Pacific territories are expected to be included in the initial FirstNet task order to build out the network. Although AT&T will build the FirstNet RAN in "opt-in" states or territories at no cost to each jurisdiction, although local public-safety entities will be responsible for paying subscription costs and end-user device expenses. However, the law that established FirstNet stipulates that individual public-safety agencies and potential first-responder users are not required to subscribe to the FirstNet service. (*Urgent Communications*)

AT&T has been able to do engineering and preparatory work to deploy new FirstNet sites and begin operations on the 20 MHz of 700 MHz Band 14 spectrum, the carrier must receive a task order from FirstNet before installing infrastructure.

Public-safety agencies in "opt-in" states and territories are eligible to sign FirstNet contracts that give first responders preemptive access across AT&T's commercial networks immediately.

AT&T will build the FirstNet RAN in "opt-in" states or territories at no cost to each jurisdiction, although local public-safety entities will be responsible for paying subscription costs and end-user device expenses. However, the law that established FirstNet stipulates that individual public-safety agencies and potential first-responder users are not required to subscribe to the FirstNet service. (*Urgent Communications*)

Jastillana lands on Emerson's dean's list

BOSTON—Lee Ann Jastillana, a resident of Saipan, has been named to the Emerson College Dean's List for the fall 2017 semester.

Jastillana is majoring in Journalism.

The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

Located in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson

College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning.

The college has 3,750 undergraduates and 750 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries.

Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 80 student organizations and performance groups.

Emerson is known for its study and internship programs in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic. A new, permanent facility on Sunset Boulevard for its L.A.-based program opened in January 2014.

The college has an active network of 32,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit www.emerson.edu. (*PR*)

Andersen AFB to host shutdown town hall today

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—The 36th Wing is hosting a town hall for all Andersen Federal civilian employees today, Jan. 22, at 9am at the base theater. Base leadership will be addressing questions and providing any available information. Updates will be posted to www.andersen.af.mil. (*PR*)

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 18-004
Construction of an Agricultural Equipment Facility for the NMC-CREES Research Station on Tinian.

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a "Agricultural Equipment Facility" for CREES Station, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 2017 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-003 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2017-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

Board of Trustees Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Determination of Quorum

III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda

IV. Executive Session

A. "To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment (privileges and/or to review the performance of a public employee", and "to consult with the governing body's legal counsel", pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912(4) and 1 CMC § 9912(6).

V. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 233-8756

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-18
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.
"AMBASSADOR SERVICES FOR AUTOMATED PASSPORT CONTROLS"
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JANUARY 19, 2018.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND THREE (3) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **CONFIDENTIAL "AMBASSADOR SERVICES FOR AUTOMATED PASSPORT CONTROLS (RFP-003-18)"**. PROPOSERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS PROPOSAL. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE CPA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR OF THE ARRIVAL TERMINAL BY FEBRUARY 9, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M..

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: JANUARY 19, 2018

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order 3. Adoption of Agenda
2. Roll Call 4. Adoption of Minutes (December 15, 2017)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IV. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. Coldwell Solar
2. SN-Five to Tinian Shipping Services, Inc. – Lease Assignment
3. Tinian Marine Stevedores, Inc. Lease
4. Saipan Star
5. GPPC, Inc. – Option to Renew Lease (Tinian)
6. Supplemental Budget Request – SIA Precision Approach Path Indicator/Runway End Identifier Lights Installation Project

V. ADJOURNMENT
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/
JOSE R. LIFOFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

January 19, 2018

**KIMBERLY K. KING-HINDS (FO495)
LAW OFFICE OF KIMBERLY K. KING-HINDS**
P.O. Box 520064
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. No.: 670-484-1117
Email Address: kkinghinds@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner
Manning Matagolai Salas

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF:** CIVIL ACTION
J NO. 18-0005
 NOTICE OF HEARING
Vicente Santos Salas, Decedent. FOR LETTER OF
ADMINISTRATOR
 Date: January 25, 2018
 Time: 9:00 a.m.
 Courtroom: 220A
 Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

**TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND
CREDITORS OF VICENTE MANIBUSAN CING,
DECEASED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, MANNING MATAGOLAI, has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Appointment of an Administrator for the Estate of VICENTE SANTOS SALAS, deceased. The attorney of record is Kimberly Kay King-Hinds of P.O. Box 64, Tinian, MP 96952. The petition is set for hearing at 9 a.m. on January 25, 2018 at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All persons who having any objection to the petition, or having a claim against the Estate should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court



DMS CONGRATULATES ITS JITS STUDENTS

The Junior International Thespian Society recently concluded its pre-regional competition at the Marianas High School campus. Dandan Middle School lauds its students for their hard work and determination and wish them well as they compete in the upcoming state competition. The awardees were, for solo musical: Juliet Inocencio, first place; Donato Santiago, second place; Mica Sune, fourth place; duet musical: Nicole and Mica Sune, fourth place; duet acting: Jonathan and Lars Wolf, first place. Not in picture: Oceana and Issa Teigita, November first placer for duet acting-B. Photo shows, front, left to right: Mica Sune, Donato Santiago, Jonathan Wolf, and Lars Wolf. Back, left to right: Katrina Indiongco, Nicole Sune, Juliet Inocencio, coach/troupe director Kristine Wolf and Jamie Pambid.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili will address SHRM

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter will have Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) at its Jan. 26 meeting.

Sablan will talk about recent congressional activities involving the CNMI, including the recently introduced Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

Sablan first took office on Jan. 6, 2009; he is now on his fifth term as the Commonwealth's representative in Congress.

During his time in office, Sablan has been active in numerous issues of significance to the CNMI. In addition to his efforts regarding the ongoing CW worker immigration issue, he has been successful in increasing funding to the NMI schools, the Commonwealth Health Center, the NAP program, and CUC.

A former Army reservist, he has been active in trying to enhance the federal programs for the Common-

Join Guam music festival!

Calling all musicians from Guam, the Marianas and beyond! It's the time of year for the largest music event in the region—the 2018 Tumon Bay Music Festival.

The festival will be held on March 1 to 10, 2018, in various locations throughout Guam.

The festival includes:

Choral Festival: March 1 & 2
■ Solo & Small Ensemble Festival: March 3
■ Pops Concert "Jazz, Rock & Beyond": March 4
■ Winds & Strings Festi-

wealth's veterans.

Recent activities have involved efforts to initiate legislation to extend the CW visa program. The NMI Chapter is honored to have Sablan speak to its members regarding the recent pending legislation and his other accomplishments and ongoing projects.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

The presentation is open to the public. Sablan will provide an opportunity for questions.

The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. (PR)

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that all current and outstanding billing of accounts are due on or before **Tuesday, January 23, 2018**. Payment not received by close of business on **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** will result in temporary suspension of all services after 6 p.m.

To avoid any service interruption, customers are hereby advised to kindly remit payment for their billing on or before **Tuesday, January 23, 2018**. Any disputed charges must be brought to IT&E's attention either in writing or in person to the IT&E Chalan Laulau Store by 5 p.m. on **January 23, 2018**. Any undisputed amounts must still be paid to avoid temporary suspension of services.

If you have any questions regarding billing or services, please contact the Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4ITE (4483) or visit the IT&E Store in Chalan Laulau.



Payments are accepted at the following convenient locations:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00PM
Chalan Laulau (Monday to Saturday) – 8:00AM to 5:00PM
TSL Plaza (Monday to Friday) – 9:00AM to 6:00PM
Kagman Store (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) – 9:00AM to 6:00PM
Tinian / Rota Office (Monday to Friday) – 8:00AM to 4:30PM

PAY BY PHONE: 682-4ITE OR PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE AT MYBILLING.ITE.NET

ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

The Island Smiles Dental Plan now available via your allotment

- **Low Cost:** \$5.00 (Individual Plan) \$6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or \$7.00 (Family Plan) per allotment. Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
- **Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Center. State-of-the art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Newest dental clinic and most experienced dentist in the CNMI. Really nice people!



Award-winning dentist
Kind and Gentle

Dr. Nelson Krum

Paradise Dental Center

Hawaii Dental Service, TakeCare & Staywell Insurances also accepted. Medicaid patients welcome!

Call 234-4040

Middle Road, Gualo Rai, across Chong's
Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com

Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island February 5-7, 2018.

For more information, referrals and/or appointments, please contact your physician or Marianas Medical Center at (670) 234-3926/27/28

Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros cardiologist and Medical Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam office bringing cardiovascular care excellence to the CNMI.

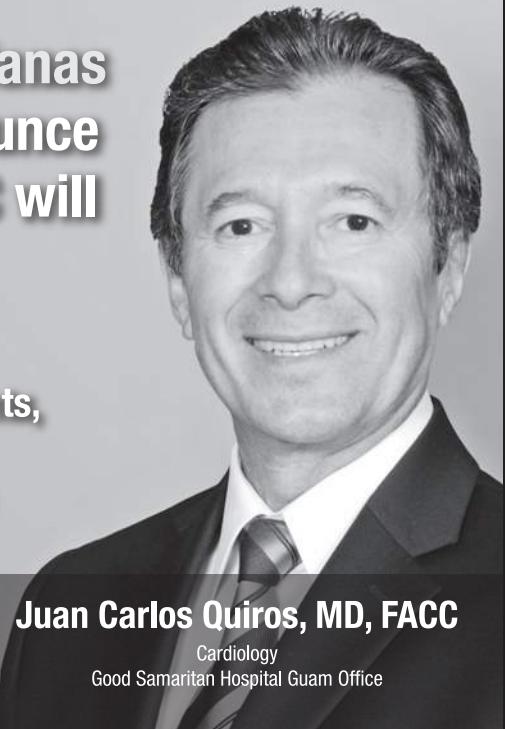
As a leader in cardiology, he depends on Good Samaritan Hospital to deliver the premier technology and resources he needs.

"I partnered with Good Samaritan Hospital because of its tradition and longstanding commitment to excellence."

We're proud to be among the highest ranked healthcare providers in the nation: the distinguished doctors of Good Samaritan Hospital.

Good Samaritan Hospital's acclaimed programs include six nationally recognized centers of excellence.

Visit our website at www.goodsam.org



Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC

Cardiology
Good Samaritan Hospital Guam Office

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A Tradition of Caring

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 14

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Thank you, Sen. McCain. Thank you, Sen. Flake. Thank you, dear reader.

A new Gallup/Knight Foundation survey of 19,196 American adults is the latest poll to show, as it summarized so well, that “media trust in the U.S. has been eroding, making it harder for the news media to fulfill their democratic responsibilities of informing the public and holding government leaders accountable.” One central finding is that Americans believe the media have an important role to play in democracy, mainly in terms of informing the public, yet they do not believe the media fulfills that role.

There are many reasons for this, starting with the twin erosion of newsrooms and faith in them. When the Los Angeles Times reported Monday that dozens of layoffs are expected at the California newspapers owned by Digital First Media, one detail stood out: The San Jose Mercury News newsroom, which covers one of the world’s biggest wealth generators in Silicon Valley, has shrunk from 440 to just 39 union staffers and some non-union staffers. That’s stunning. As is having a U.S. president who attacks the media so often and so vociferously.

Against this backdrop, impassioned support for the media from Arizona Republican Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, in an op-ed in The Washington Post and in a speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate, respectively, was welcome Wednesday.

These are rough times for the U.S. media, but we vow to keep working to earn your business and trust.

(c)2018 The San Diego Union-Tribune



Trump's approval ratings one year into his term

At the one-year mark, it's time to check in again on President Donald Trump's approval ratings. The good news for him is that he's been rallying for the last month. After bottoming out (according to the FiveThirtyEight estimate, based on an adjusted averaging of all the polls that are out there) at a dismal 36.4 percent approval rating on Dec. 16, Trump has moved up solidly to 39.6 percent—even slipping above 40.0 percent early this week for the first time since May.

The bad news? He's still dead last among all polling-era presidents at this point into his first term, with Gerald Ford in second place at 43.5 percent approval and Ronald Reagan next at 48.9 percent. Looking at it from a different angle, his net approval (approval rating minus disapproval) makes him the only polling-era president below water after a year in office: -15.5 percent, far behind Ford (+4.9) and Barack Obama (+7.1).

Trump fans might take some comfort in that Reagan won reelection in a massive landslide and Obama won a second term comfortably. Another positive marker? Bill Clinton, who also had an easy re-election, had the previous roughest first year of any newly elected president even though he ended it on an up note. On the other hand, Trump wasn't really in a group with these presidents. He was well behind them. In fact, outside of a few days he moved ahead of Clinton, he was in last place among the elected presidents all through the year, and usually by a large margin.

A couple of things about Trump's recent uptick: Moving up 3 to 4 percentage points is nice, but it's not exactly a big deal unless there's more to it.

Every previous president during the polling era has had at least a 15 percentage-point surge at some point. If Trump could do that (and hold on to that gain, which doesn't always happen), he'd be in good shape for re-election. But he's far from that right now.

Also, I'm very skeptical that anyone knows exactly why it's happened. I've seen a lot of speculation. It was Christmastime! It was the tax bill! It was because the tax bill and other legislation was out of the news! It was because people really like bigoted remarks! It was the good economy finally kicking in! Speculation is fine, but there's simply no way to know. So welcome the various theories that you'll hear, but be very suspicious if anyone

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.



asserts their pet theory as fact.

And, yes, I've heard all the arguments that Trump's poll numbers don't count, but the truth is the poll numbers are real. Contrary to myth, national polls were quite accurate in the 2016 election, and for that matter, Trump didn't outrun his poll numbers during the primaries, either. As for this year, everything we've seen, from special elections to the behavior of politicians from both parties, supports the idea that Trump's approval numbers are a pretty good indication of how the country as a whole thinks about him. Not, to be sure, a perfect picture; it's quite possible that the estimate is off a few percentage points in either direction. But it's good enough that we know he's been the least popular first-year president by a wide margin.

Trump did all this with a pretty healthy economy. If things head south, he's almost certainly going to wind up where George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter ended up: unpopular and defeated for a second term. Or worse: A recession could cost him re-nomination, given that he's starting (at least right now) from such a low point. On the other hand, Reagan, Clinton and Harry Truman all rallied from lower than Trump is now closer to the election.

What suggests that this will be difficult for Trump is that he's been at or lower than 40 percent for so much of his presidency, and polls show strong opposition to him has constantly been near 50 percent or worse.

There's simply no comp for that among the 12 previous polling-era presidents. That doesn't mean Trump can't recover. It just means there's no example of what happens to a president when half the nation (or more) appears to have written him off. But perhaps he can change, or perhaps policy results will be so good that the fundamentals will overwhelm everything else.

Once again, we just don't have examples to help us predict.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Point of clarification

By AGNES M. MCPHETRES
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I'm not known for writing letters to the editor, nor would I dignify customary hearsay with a response. I am writing this letter, however, to clear up some of the misinformation recently published by an online blogger calling themselves "Imjustsaying" on the *Marianas Variety*'s Jan. 17 publication, titled "NMC, NMTI, LTA receive CW funds."

This particular individual cited statistics that can be misinterpreted by the general public, thus requiring a formal response. The author mentioned "...how NMTI received over \$1 million last year and trained [only] 84 students?" *The writer's numbers are a bit flawed as the amount of individuals that underwent training is actually 304, while the total number of UNDULATED graduates is 93.*

You will notice that in any meaningful training, you'll see numbers that are similar. *Please take special note that the Northern Marianas College in 2017 graduated 208 students, while training a grand total of over 1,000 students.* Obviously, one

must factor in that it takes a minimum of two years (AA degree) to report actual success. Most NMTI programs too require a commitment similar to that of NMC.

I would like to, once again, stress that we are not a "soft" vocational training center, which covers only the theoretical aspects of a trade. NMTI is an institution that will not sacrifice the overall training experience as the product is only as good as the investment. An example of our commitment is our certification in hotel and restaurant operations, in which an individual has a choice between our program and a similar program offered by another entity. While both touch the hospitality trade and both offer the same certifications from the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute, AHLEI, only we provide a hands-on requirement of 240 hours.

I ask you the end user to compare for yourself between courses with 180 hours of lecture and eight hours of job shadowing, to that of a course with 180 hours of lecture and 240 hours of "on-the-job training." I would take it a step further by challenging the comparable program to a competition similar to CUC's Lineman's Rodeo, like competing in "setting up an event ballroom or any hospitality related scenario." Working in the hospitality trade requires you to do more than recite procedures and or fill in multiple-choice questions.

I'll take it one step further and report that NMTI has a 77-percent job placement rate among its graduates. The remaining 23 percent

is a skewed figure as this number includes those individuals that take courses for "self enrichment" reasons. The entire premise of CW funding allocation rides on the objective of "job placement and/or worker replacement." Is it our job? My answer is, "yes it is, as we are custodians of public funding meant to further an established agenda. As they say, "the proof is in the pudding."

NMTI asks the general public to decipher for itself between "soft" vocational programs and that of "hard" vocational programs. I ask if you would ride in a plane piloted by an individual with merely eight hours of job shadowing? Of course not! You would demand the best available means of training when individual lives matter.

Being an educator my entire career, I am very familiar with how the cost of education is tallied. I ask you, the readers, to do your own investigative work and not be suckered into the "marketing campaigns" being offered that serve as a "mirage" in a bone-dry desert. While at the helm of NMTI, I will *always* allocate our financial resources into purchasing much-needed books, tools, equipment, etc., over a movie theatre advertisement or any similar promotional tool any day.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of you, our stakeholders, for your continued support of trades education in the Commonwealth!

Agnes M. McPhetres is the chief executive officer of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The strangulation of Saipan

Editor's Note: The following is a continuation of a letter that was first published last Friday, Jan. 19. It is being published in two parts to accommodate its length.

Second part of a series

It has been reported that the U.S. is facing a nightmare of state-side problems of rising crime rates and overall mayhem and, unfortunately, it's partly created by a disconcerting percentage of illegal Dreamers in the U.S., who are protected by the sanctuary areas. You can compare this to the very low amount of crime committed by the CNMI CW workforce. Shouldn't DHS/USCIS focus more on the mainland illegal immigration problems before drinking an island *mai tai* and squashing our CW program?

Here on Saipan I have friends who have worked here for 20-30 years, and they have regularly paid living expenses, taxes and fees, and have been fine community members. But, sadly, due to an excessively slow and selectively harsh USCIS system, many times these decent and hardworking CWs are not allowed to work and eventually end up packing their stuff and catching the next flight home.

C'mon, what's the matter with DHS/USCIS and its big boss, Mr. Trump? Remember when Trump promised the CNMI to help solve this adverse labor situation, but then he turned around and became silent as the CNMI scrambles to fix the problem. It reminds me of the old John Wayne movies where Wayne tries to convince some pissed-off Apache chiefs that the Great White Father and its Indian Affairs representatives in Washington will someday stop breaking promises to the struggling Indian people. Eventually, the Apache and other Indian chiefs did something about it and they now have lavish money-making casino/hotels on their tax-protected reservations. Meanwhile, our Imperial Pacific Resort hotel idly sits in Garapan as a gigantic iron skeleton that is probably rusting in the gentle tropical breezes due to the lack of skilled construction workers.

The questionable questions are:

1. Do you think the U.S. government is sadly dysfunctional in trying to "Make America Great Again," with Trump and a vastly shrinking number of Americans not on the same page as him?

2. Is the U.S. involved in an ongoing conspiracy to jealously stick it to the aggressive and growing Chinese economy on Saipan by thwarting their showpiece hotel casino; and

3. Is DHS actually a coward when dealing with the more dangerous illegals in the U.S. mainland and feels sanctimoniously empowered when dealing with the more passive Filipinos and Chinese in the CNMI?

Seriously, the real burning question is: Why aren't our CNMI leaders pissed off enough to really do something besides the usual letter writing, political hand-wringing exercises, and waiting for the feds to invite them to fruitless meetings?

In conclusion, I ask that the humongous Department of Home-

land Security and USCIS to stop the strangulation of Saipan and let the CNMI survive and prosper. Maybe the feds should take the Dalai Lama's advice when he said: "Our prime purpose in this life is to help others, and if you can't help others, at least don't hurt them." Finally, I also ask that DHS spend more time in the U.S. mainland and go catch some illegal wall climbers, if you can.

Dr. Jack Angello

via email

Saipan U.S. resident (until the feds read this and maybe deport me, too)

One avenue to consider

The economy of the CNMI for the last decade or so has severely suffered a setback. We need to resolve the critical shortage of workforce in the CNMI. The situation today seems to indicate that we will be facing a worse situation unless we find a solution to resolve the labor issues we are facing. Right now, based on what is currently in the law, I understand the CW program will be reduced to one by 2019 (next year). I presume that means we will have only on CW worker ion our islands.

Unless we can qualify the present CW workers under a different immigration status, the CNMI economy will also drastically be reduced to a point where we can only rely on local residents to take on the jobs presently held by CW workers. I hope I am wrong and if I am wrong, please correct me.

After living in Guam for 18 years, I returned to Saipan in 1965 to take on a challenging position that was offered to me. Since that time, I have observed the economic growth, particularly in tourism. Except for Mr. Jones and Mr. Tenorio, several hotels were built mostly by Japanese investors. Workers for these hotels and related supports were brought in from Japan and Philippines and other areas. As our economy grew, so did the critical need to import workers. This trend has not changed. As a matter of fact, the demand for more workers has increased.

Next year, with the termination of the CW program, we can expect "economic dormancy." We must act now and I fervently request that our government (executive and legislative) to find a way to resolve this critical problem now.

Here is a solution that I have been studying that needs the attention of our government as well as United States. I urge the reactivation of Section 902 of our Covenant and submit a request to the President of the United States to designate its representatives to ask President Donald Trump to accord U.S. permanent residency for those workers who have been working continuously and legally for 15 years in the CNMI. There are at least 10,000 Filipinos who might be qualified. This will eliminate the problem today. These folks have essentially been alienated from their homeland and their children born in the CNMI are, in fact, U.S. citizens and, to them, the CNMI is their home. For humanitarian reasons and to solve the critical problem, I feel that this is one avenue that we must consider and move forward with.

David M. Sablan Sr.

Papago, Saipan

LITERARY NOOK

How Deep the S***Hole?

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

—Edmund Burke

Every day the discourse plummets
every day the bar descends
Hit rock bottom but keep digging
down a hole that never ends

Every day what's crass turns normal
idiocracy prevails
Like a train wreck in slow motion
Watch. The cars. Run off. The rails.

Every day the world doth snicker
you've become a laughing stock
The highest office? Fodder now
to ridicule, lampoon and mock

Evil triumphs, it's been said
when good men just fail to act
Evil triumphs, we might learn
when all who see deny what's fact

Some still justify the madness
Some still rationalize away
All the while the clock keeps ticking
counting down to judgment day

How much evidence is called for?
What more proof do good men need
That the man who holds the office
is of sad and sorry breed?

Ask "what purpose serves a leader?"
instigator? circus clown?
To help us wallow in the mire?
To lead us up or lead us down?

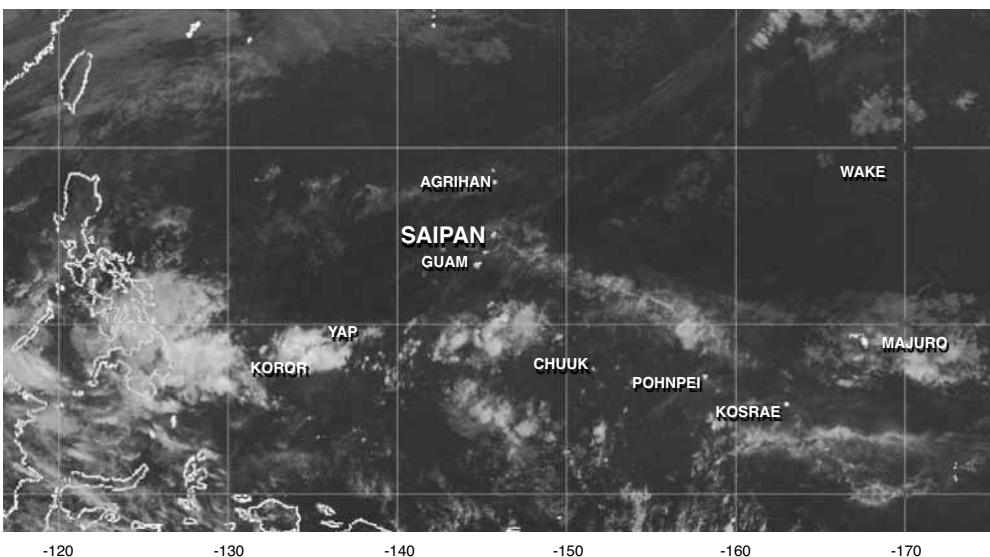
So, down we go, yes ever deeper
towards the bottom of this pit
Let's hope we never get to learn
how deep goes this hole of...crap!

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. ▲ 87° ▼ 77° | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. ▲ 87° ▼ 77° |

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:55 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

A weak band of trade-wind convergence produced a line of showers across Guam earlier this morning, bringing a needed wetting rain to the island. These showers have moved off to the west with another line seen on satellite to the east of Guam. Moderate showers are again possible over the region today as the band of convergence and associated showers moves across the islands. Beginning tonight, isolated showers are expected through the week, with only light rainfall likely into next weekend. Combined seas of 5 to 7 feet will continue through tonight. Surf from this swell will be right around 9 feet through the day along east facing reefs. Surf may occasionally dip below 9 feet through the day, however, a high risk of rip currents are likely to continue through Thursday morning. Seas are then expected to build again Monday into Monday night. This will help maintain a high risk of rip currents through Thursday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | | ▼ ▲ °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 86° / 77° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 83° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 83° / 79° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Showers | 79° / 66° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 23° / 5° |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 70° / 63° |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 81° / 71° |
| London | Showers | 50° / 43° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 66° / 46° |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 90° / 75° |
| Melbourne | Sunny | 72° / 57° |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | 76° / 68° |
| New York | Showers | 48° / 44° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 50° / 34° |
| Paris | Showers | 54° / 46° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 37° / 18° |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 57° / 43° |
| Salem | Rain | 65° / 39° |
| San Francisco | Showers | 53° / 45° |
| Seoul | Mostly Sunny | 19° / 5° |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | 52° / 34° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 56° / 46° |

| NMI CRIME STOPPERS | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following: | | | |
| ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone | | | |
| ■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone | | | |
| ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net | | | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|
| 4:48 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.06 |
| 11:34 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.91 |
| 5:47 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.91 |
| 10:42 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.59 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:47 AM | 6:09 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:47 AM | 6:10 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:47 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Thursday | 6:47 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Friday | 6:46 AM | 6:12 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | 10:10 AM | 10:24 PM | - |
| Tuesday | 10:51 AM | 11:15 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 11:32 AM | - | - |
| Thursday | - | 12:08 AM | 12:16 PM |
| Friday | - | 1:03 AM | 1:03 PM |

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily | | | | UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily | | | |
| UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily | | | | UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily | | | |
| UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota | | | | UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | |
| UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 | | | | UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota | | | |
| UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily | | | | UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily | | | |
| UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily | | | | UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily | | | |
| SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) | | | |
| UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | | UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6 | | | |
| ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) | | | | ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | | UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 | | | |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily | | | | DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily | | | |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7 | | | | 7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4 | | | |
| 7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5 | | | | 7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7 | | | |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily | | | | 7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily | | | |
| 0Z626 2:10am 6:00am 1 | | | | 0Z625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 | | | |
| 0Z626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | | | | TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily | | | |
| UJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | | | | | |

More than 600K Toyotas with airbag issue recalled

Subaru expands Takata air bag recall

Subaru has announced another Takata air bag recall.

A total of 64,179 additional vehicles are affected including, Forester, Outback, WRX/STI, Impreza, Legacy and Tribeca.

The Takata airbag recall gets bigger with more Subaru Forester, Outback, WRX/STI, Impreza, Legacy and Tribeca vehicles added to the number. The 64,179 total affected additional vehicles now includes 2009-2013, Forester, Outback, WRX/STI, Legacy and Tribeca, and 2009-2011 Impreza compact models.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has prioritized recalls by geographic zone by states with the highest risk based on heat and humidity. The latest round of recalls now includes vehicles sold or ever registered in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan), and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

NHTSA says, "These vehicles are equipped with certain air bag inflators assembled as part of the passenger frontal air bag modules used as original equipment or replacement equipment. In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the passenger frontal air bag, these inflators may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to abso-

lute humidity and temperature cycling."

This massive recall isn't over yet

Future phases of the Takata recalls will be implemented each year until the year 2020, to include additional vehicles until all non-desiccated Takata-sourced passenger side Takata airbag inflators are recalled. According to the LA Times, there have been 19 deaths worldwide, and 13 deaths in the U.S. blamed on faulty Takata inflators. The defective inflators have sparked the largest automotive recall in U.S. history, involving 42 million vehicles and 69 million inflators. More than 100 million autos have been recalled worldwide.

Remedy

This latest recall affecting 2009-2013, Forester, Outback, WRX/STI, Legacy and Tribeca, and 2009-2011 Impreza models is expected to begin February 9, 2018. Subaru will notify owners by mail, and dealers will replace the front passenger air bag inflator, free of charge. Owners may contact Subaru customer service at 1-800-782-2783. Subaru's number for this recall is TKA-18. Owners can also use the Subaru vehicle recall VIN lookup here to check for the latest recall information on your vehicle. (www.torquenews.com)

Nissan recall of Versa models

Nissan North America is recalling 52,614 of the following vehicles:

■ Model year 2009-2012 Versa Hatchback, and 2011 Versa Sedan vehicles ever registered in the states of Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan), and the U.S. Virgin Islands or "Zone C."

In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the passenger front airbag, the inflator may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to absolute humidity and temperature cycling.

An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

What to do

Nissan will notify owners, and dealers will replace the passenger frontal air bag inflator, free of charge.

The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Nissan customer service at 1-800-647-7261. (www.consumeraffairs.com)

Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing is recalling 601,259 of the following vehicles:

■ Model year 2013 Scion xBs; Toyota Corollas, Corolla Matrixes, Siennas, 4Runners, Lexus IS250s, IS350s, IS250Cs, IS350Cs, IS-Fs, and GX460s sold, ever registered, in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan), and the U.S. Virgin Islands or "Zone A."

■ Model year 2010 Scion xBs, Toyota Corollas, Corolla Matrixes, Yaris, 4Runners, Lexus IS250s, IS350s, ES350s, IS-Fs, and Pontiac Vibes ever registered in Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota,

IS250Cs, IS350Cs, ES350s, IS-Fs, GX460s, and Pontiac Vibes sold, ever registered, in Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia or "Zone B."

■ Model year 2009 Scion xBs, Toyota Corollas, Corolla Matrixes, Yaris, Lexus IS250s, IS350s, ES350s, IS-Fs, and Pontiac Vibes ever registered in Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota,

Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming or "Zone C."

These vehicles are equipped with certain airbag inflators assembled as part of the passenger front airbag modules used as original equipment or replacement equipment.

In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the passenger frontal air bag, these inflators may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to absolute humidity

An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

What to do

Toyota will notify the Toyota, Scion and Lexus owners. General Motors will contact the Pontiac owners. Depending on the vehicle model, dealers will replace the front passenger air bag inflator, or replace the air bag assembly.

The recall is expected to begin January 24, 2018.

Owners may contact Toyota customer service at 1-800-331-4331, or Pontiac customer service at 1-800-762-2737. Toyota's numbers for this recall are "Zone A" Toyota: G0P, Lexus: GLG; "Zone B" Toyota: G0R, Lexus GLH; "Zone C" Toyota: H0A, and Lexus: HLA. (www.consumeraffairs.com)

STAYING CONNECTED

Docomo Pacific donated two charging stations to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on Dec. 29. The stations are located in the north side outpatient lobby and cafeteria of the Commonwealth Health Center. Each charging station is equipped with lighting cable chargers capable of charging any USB device. Pictured from left are Brent Deleon Guerrero, Docomo Pacific brand coordinator; Grace Laxina; John Moreno; Laurina Boyer; chief executive officer Esther Muñoz; Frances Accad, all from CHCC; Docomo Pacific prepaid coordinator Tim Asaivao; Angie Cabrera, CHCC; and Docomo Pacific assistant general manager Pauline Johnson

DOCOMO PACIFIC



Docomo Pacific is excited to work with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to provide a more comforting environment to children, patients, and families receiving treatment or going through recovery. On Jan. 11, Docomo Pacific made a donation of various games and supplies to the Pediatric Unit of the Commonwealth Health Center. Part of the donation includes an Xbox One, PlayStation 4, various board games, paintings, coloring books, and WiFi. Pictured with Docomo Pacific vice president/general manager Dino Manning (third from right) are CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muñoz, CHCC board chair Lauri Ogomoro and CHCC medical social services manager Tina Snodgrass.

DOCOMO PACIFIC

Honda recalls nearly 700K vehicles with airbag inflator issue

American Honda Motor Co. is recalling model year 2011-2013 Acura TSX, TSX Sportwagon, ZDX, Honda Accord, Accord Crosstour, Fit, Insight and Pilot vehicles; model year 2011 Honda Civic, Civic NGV, Civic Hybrid and CR-V vehicles; and model year 2013 Honda FCX Clarity and Fit EV vehicles ever registered in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan), and the U.S. Virgin Islands or "Zone A."

■ Model year 2010 Versa Hatchback, and Versa Sedan vehicles ever registered in the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia or "Zone B."

■ Model year 2009 Versa Hatchback and Versa Sedan vehicles ever registered in the states of Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho,

Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming or "Zone C."

Finally, unless included in Zones A or B above, Honda is recalling model year 2009 Acura TSX, Honda Accord, Civic, Civic NGV, Civic Hybrid, CR-V, Fit, and Pilot vehicles ever registered in the states of Alaska, Colorado,

Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming or "Zone C."

In all, 691,726 vehicles are being recalled.

These vehicles are equipped with certain air bag inflators assembled as part of the front airbag modules, and used as original equipment or replacement equipment (such as after a vehicle crash necessitating replacement of the original airbags), that may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term ex-

posure to lower absolute humidity, temperature and temperature cycling.

An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

What to do

Honda will notify owners, and dealers will replace the passenger frontal air bag inflator, free of charge.

The recall is expected to begin February 12, 2018.

Owners may contact Honda customer service at 1-888-234-2138. Honda's numbers for this recall are B0K and L0J. (www.consumeraffairs.com)

Business

Shutdown divides services into essential and non-essential

WASHINGTON (AP)—Symbols of American promise have turned into emblems of American dysfunction amid a dispute in Congress over spending and immigration that has forced

scores of federal agencies and outposts to close their doors.

The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island have turned away visitors in New York, due to what the National Park Service

described as “a lapse in appropriations,” a bureaucratic term for a lack of money. In Philadelphia, crowds of tourists have been told that Independence Hall, where the Declaration of

Independence and Constitution were signed, and the Liberty Bell are closed.

The shuttered icons were some of the easiest-to-spot impacts of the partial govern-

Geysers yes, Ellis Island no: Some US parks open, some not

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo.

(AP)—Visitors could still ride snowmobiles and ski into Yellowstone National Park Saturday to marvel at the geysers and buffalo herds, despite the federal government shutdown.

But across the country in New York, the nation’s most famous monuments to immigration—the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island—were closed.

The Interior Department had vowed to keep open as many parks, monuments and public lands as possible during the shutdown, which began at midnight Friday on the East Coast.

By mid-day Saturday, the pattern was spotty, and some visitors were frustrated.

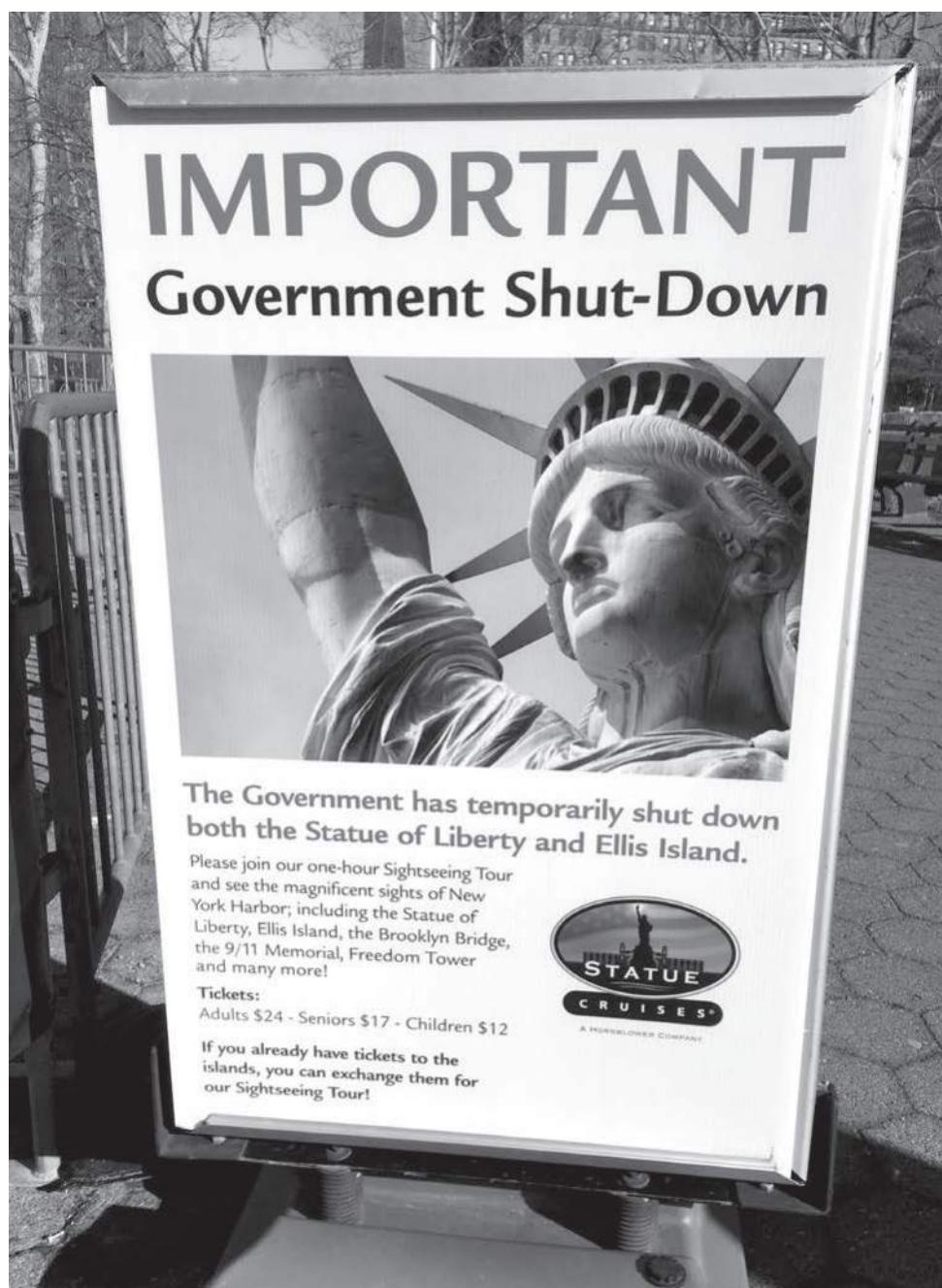
“My initial reaction is, they really kind of screwed up our day. We had a great day planned,” said Dan O’Meara, a California firefighter who wanted to visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

“But the next thing is, you know - it’s troubling that the people we voted in are not doing the job that they’re supposed to be doing. So, it’s very frustrating,” he said.

In Yellowstone, cross-country skier Carol Weaver was unhappy with lawmakers, even though the trails were open for her and a group of friends making a two-day visit.

Weaver, from Bozeman, Montana, worried about what would happen if the impasse is lengthy.

“This is our public land, and we should be able to use it any time we want,” she said. “Congress better get its act together. They’ve been so irresponsible the last year, as well as the White House.”



The sign at the Ellis Island ferry cue informs visitors that there was no access to the island or to the Statue of Liberty, due to the government shutdown, Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018 in New York.

Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., said the Trump administration is trying to minimize the effects of the shutdown by keeping parks open, but he accused former President Barack Obama of doing the opposite.

“There’s a little different philosophy on the shutdown

from the Obama administration, which was, ‘We’re going to try to inflict pain on the American people,’” Daines said.

He said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a former Montana congressman, wants to keep Montana’s Glacier National Park and

Yellowstone open. Most of Yellowstone is in Wyoming but three of the five entrances are in Montana.

On Saturday, Zinke tweeted, “Not all national parks are fully open but we’re working hard to make as much accessible as is safely possible.”

Long shutdown could hurt economy, a short one just ‘a blip’

By TOM KRISHER
AP BUSINESS WRITER

If the shutdown lasts just days or even a couple of weeks, the robust stock market that President Donald Trump has boasted about probably will emerge unscathed. A longer impasse, economists say, could rattle consumer and investor confi-

dence, pulling stocks lower and dragging down the economy.

Economists and investment advisers interviewed by The Associated Press generally didn’t foresee the shutdown that began Saturday lasting long enough to stifle the economy much. With pivotal elections in November, both

parties would want to shield voters from any pain. Investors and consumers are feeling optimistic now based on the tax cut signed into law last month, and the economy is strong enough to power through a short shutdown.

But Randy Warren, CEO of Warren Financial Service, a Philadelphia-area investment advisory firm, said shutdown

that drags on for six weeks or longer—an unimaginable scenario—could kill a bull market and discourage people from spending money. “These things start to pile up,” he said Saturday. “When you start to doubt the future, then you start to doubt investing.”

And that’s among the reasons Warren and others don’t

If the government shuts down ...

Things that will shutdown

- Federal parks and monuments and federally owned museums, such as the Smithsonian.
- Offices overseas that give visas to foreigners hoping to visit the United States, many federal regulatory agencies, IRS call centers that provide assistance to taxpayers and most offices that handle federal grants and contracts will all close.
- Hundreds of thousands of federal civilian workers would be furloughed. They would not be paid during the shutdown.

Things that won’t shutdown

- Programs that don’t require annual appropriations. That group, which includes Social Security, Medicare and other so-called entitlements, continue without interruption.
- The U.S. Postal Service. It’s a quasi-independent entity and does not depend on annual appropriations, so its business will continue as usual.

Source: Chicago Tribune
Graphic: Staff, TNS

The notice sparked a series of angry reactions from viewers, with several noting that the timing couldn’t have been worse: The NFL conference championships will be played Sunday. “During NFL PLAYOFFS!?” one post read. “AFN, start a GoFundMe & broadcast these games! Make it happen!”

Yet congressional Republicans and Democrats appeared no closer Saturday to settling their differences over immigration policy and striking an agreement to fund the government. The longer the shutdown lasts, the worse the effects will be. Almost half the 2 million civilian federal workers will be barred from doing their jobs if the shutdown extends into Monday.

That’ll put on hold a swath of government functions, from the processing of new veterans benefits claims to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s support for the government’s annual seasonal flu program. At the Internal Revenue Service, more than half of the 80,565 employees will be barred from working just as tax filing season is beginning and the agency is dealing with the sweeping changes made by the new GOP tax law.

Until then, much of the immediate fallout was in Washington, where lawmakers carried out the part of jobs that involve assigning blame.

There were few signs of shutdown at the Capitol, where lawmakers spent most of the day making speeches about the dispute. A women’s march carried on as planned, under the eye of U.S. Park Police protection. Vice President Mike Pence did not reschedule a visit to the Middle East, the administration labeling the trip “integral” to U.S. national security and diplomacy.

Trump’s own next scheduled trip was up in the air. The president was due to leave for the Swiss Alps on Wednesday evening to participate in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. A number of White House staffers and agency advance teams are already there awaiting his arrival.

see a lengthy stalemate.

“It seems unlikely at this point that it would be a four-week shutdown,” said Beth Ann Bovino, chief U.S. economist at Standard & Poor’s. “It will hopefully be a blip.”

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index and Nasdaq composite closed at record highs Friday. The Russell 2000 index, composed of smaller, more domestically-focused com-

panies, climbed more than 1 percent and also finished at a record high.

“Unless it meaningfully impacts the U.S. consumer and leads them to spend much less money, leading to some kind of major (economic) slowdown, it’s not a big deal,” said Sameer Samana, global equity and technical strategist for the Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Nation

Democrats, GOP exchange charges of blame for shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—Feuding Democrats and Republicans in Congress are trying to dodge blame for a paralyzing standoff over immigration and showing few signs of progress on negotiations needed to end a government shutdown.

The finger-pointing Saturday played out in rare weekend proceedings in both the House and Senate, where lawmakers were eager to show voters they were actively working for a solution—or at least actively making their case why the other party was at fault. The scene highlighted the political stakes for both parties in an election-year shutdown whose consequences were far from clear.

“The American people cannot begin to understand why the Senate Democratic leader thinks the entire government should be shut down until he gets his way on illegal immigration,” said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., hours after a last-chance Senate vote failed.

Democrats refused to provide the votes needed to reopen the government until they strike a deal with President Donald Trump protecting young immigrants from deportation, providing disaster relief and boosting spending for opioid treatment and other domestic programs.

Democrats feel “very, very strongly about the issues” said Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader, adding that he believes “the American people are on our side.”

The fighting followed a late-night vote in which Senate



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., walks to the chamber on the first morning of a government shutdown after a divided Senate rejected a funding measure last night, at the Capitol in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018.

Democrats blocked a House-passed measure that would have kept agencies functioning for four weeks.

Republicans began the day hopeful they might pick off Democratic support for a three-week version and bring the episode to a quick end. Democrats are insisting on an alternative lasting only several days—which they think would pressure Republicans to cut an immigration deal—and say they’ll kill the three-week version when the Senate

staying in touch with McConnell, while White House legislative affairs director Marc Short and budget chief Mick Mulvaney met at the Capitol with House Republicans. GOP lawmakers voiced support for the White House stance of not negotiating while the government was shuttered.

Tempers were short and theatrics high. Lawmakers bickered over blame, hypocrisy and even the posters brought to the House floor. While neither chamber voted on a measure to open the government, the House did vote

on whether a poster displayed by Republican Rep. Bradley

Trump worked the phones,

Byrne of Alabama violated the House rules on decorum. The House voted to allow the poster, which bore a photo of Schumer and the quote “the politics of idiocy.”

While Republicans blamed the breakdown on Schumer, Democrats increasingly focused their messaging on criticizing Trump, whose popularity is dismal. Democrats were using his zigzagging stance in immigration talks—first encouraging deals, then rejecting them—to underscore his first, chaotic year in office.

“Negotiating with President Trump is like negotiating with Jell-O,” Schumer said.

US flu season gets worse, has ‘lot more steam’ than expected

NEW YORK (AP)—The flu season in the U.S. is getting worse.

Health officials last week said flu was blanketing the country but they thought there was a good chance the season was already peaking. But the newest numbers out Friday show it grew even more intense.

“This is a season that has a lot more steam than we thought,” said Dr. Dan Jernigan of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

One measure of the season is how many doctor or hospital visits are because of a high fever, cough and other flu symptoms. Thirty-two states reported high patient traffic last week, up from 26 the previous week. Overall, it was the busiest week for flu symptoms

in nine years.

Hawaii is the only state that doesn’t have widespread illnesses.

This year’s flu season got off to an early start, and it’s been driven by a nasty type of flu that tends to put more people in the hospital and cause more deaths than other common flu bugs. In New York, state officials say a drastic rise in flu cases hospitalized more than 1,600 this past week.

The flu became intense last month in the U.S. The last two weekly reports show flu widespread over the entire continental United States, which is unusual.

Usually, flu seasons start to wane after so much activity, but “it’s difficult to predict,” Jernigan said.

Short compared Democrats’ actions to “a 2-year-old temper tantrum.”

Republicans seemed content to hope additional Democrats will break as pressure builds and the impact of the shutdown becomes clearer.

In the late-night vote blocking the bill preventing a shutdown, five Democrats from states Trump won in the 2016 election voted to keep government functioning. In a sign that moderates are feeling pressure, more than a dozen centrist senators from both parties have been trying to craft an immigration and spending compromise that party leaders would embrace, but they’ve fallen short so far.

Republicans argued that Democrats were blocking extra Pentagon funds by keeping government closed and thwarting a long-term budget deal.

“I question if Senate Democrats are really united,” Short told reporters. “We think there’ll be more today and hopefully they’ll continue to see that it’s not wise to hold our troops hostage.”

But pressure on Republicans could mount with the new workweek Monday and the impact of the federal shutdown becomes more apparent to people.

While the Statue of Liberty—the nation’s emblem of its immigrant past—and Philadelphia’s Liberty Bell were closed Saturday, visitors had access to other iconic national parks like Yellowstone. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tweeted a photo of himself talking to students at the World War II Memorial in Washington, blocks from White House.

US marches for women’s rights slam Trump, encourage voting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Demonstrators from Los Angeles to New York marched in support of female empowerment and denounced President Donald Trump’s views on immigration, abortion, LGBT rights and women’s rights on Saturday, the anniversary of his inauguration.

People marched in Casper, Wyoming, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, and in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Houston. In Park City, Utah, where the annual Sundance Film Festival is in full swing, actress Jane Fonda and nationally known attorney Gloria Allred joined the women’s march.

In Los Angeles, Eva Longoria, Natalie Portman, Viola Davis, Alfre Woodard, Scarlett Johansson, Constance Wu, Adam Scott and Rob Reiner were among the celebrities who addressed a crowd of hundreds of thousands of demonstrators. Longoria, who starred in

TV’s “Desperate Housewives,” told marchers their presence matters, “especially when those in power seem to have turned their backs on reason and justice.”

Portman, an Academy Award winner, talked about feeling sexualized by the entertainment industry from the time her first film, “Leon: The Professional,” was released when she was 13 and suggested it’s time for “a revolution of desire.” In the 1994 film, Portman played a young girl taken in by a hit man after her family is killed.

Woodard urged everyone to register and vote, saying, “the 2018 midterms start now.” And Davis spoke with the passion of a preacher as she discussed the nation’s history of discrimination and her past as a sexual assault survivor.

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness, spread by a virus. It can cause a miserable but relatively mild illness in many people, but more a more severe illness in others. Young children and the elderly are at greatest risk from flu and its complications. In a bad season, there as many as 56,000 deaths connected to the flu. In the U.S., annual flu shots are recommended for everyone age 6 months or older.

In Oklahoma and Texas, some school districts canceled classes this week because so many students and teachers were sick with the flu and other illnesses. In Mississippi, flu outbreaks have hit more than 100 nursing homes and other long-term care places, resulting in some restricting visitors.

World

Pope wrapping up contentious, restive trip to Latin America

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Pope Francis is wrapping up the most contested, violent trip of his papacy Sunday with a series of meetings with Peruvian church leaders and a final Mass at an air base in Peru's capital.

The Mass is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of Peruvian faithful before his departure to Rome—a potentially stark contrast to the pontiff's send-off from Chile, where his final homily drew thousands less than anticipated and thin crowds lined the streets to wave goodbye.

"Hopefully early tomorrow, myself and all of Peru will get a chance to see him up close," said Nicolas Astete, one of more than 3,000 people who gathered Saturday night outside the Apostolic Nunciature in Lima, hoping to see a glimpse of the pope before he retired for the evening.

"Come here!" the crowds cried as Francis made his way to the papal embassy.

Despite the thunderous welcome the pontiff has received throughout his trip to Peru,

the uproar over the Catholic Church's handling of a clerical sex abuse scandal in Chile and Francis' own remarks on the case have continued to cast a shadow over the visit. All ears will be tuned in Sunday to any final words Francis might share on a crisis he had hoped to help mend in a visit to usually friendly Latin American turf.

During his seven-day trip Chile and Peru Francis personally apologized to survivors of priests who sexually abused them, traveled deep into the Amazon to meet with indigenous leaders, decried the scourge of corruption and violence against women in Latin America and urged the Chilean government and radical Mapuche factions to peacefully resolve one of the region's longest-running disputes.

But the pope also attracted unprecedent rejection: At least a dozen churches across Chile were set aflame and riot police shot tear gas and arrested protesters who tried marching in on Mass in Santiago.

French president warns that UK can't keep full access to EU

LONDON (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron has suggested that Britain is likely to negotiate a unique relationship with the European Union before it leaves the bloc next year, while stressing that any agreement must be consistent with EU rules.

In remarks released Saturday, Macron told the BBC's Andrew Marr television program that Britain cannot maintain its full access to the EU's single market if it doesn't accept the bloc's founding principles, including the free movement of people and the jurisdiction of EU courts.

"This special way should be consistent with the preservation of the single market and our collective interests," he said. "And you should understand that you cannot, by definition, have the full access to the single market if you don't tick the box."

That means Britain must continue to contribute to the EU budget and accept the four freedoms guaranteed by the bloc—free movement of people, goods, services and capital—if it wants to maintain full access to the single market, Macron said. The full interview will be broadcast Sunday.

The comments undermine the position of some Brexit supporters who want to regain control of the U.K.'s borders

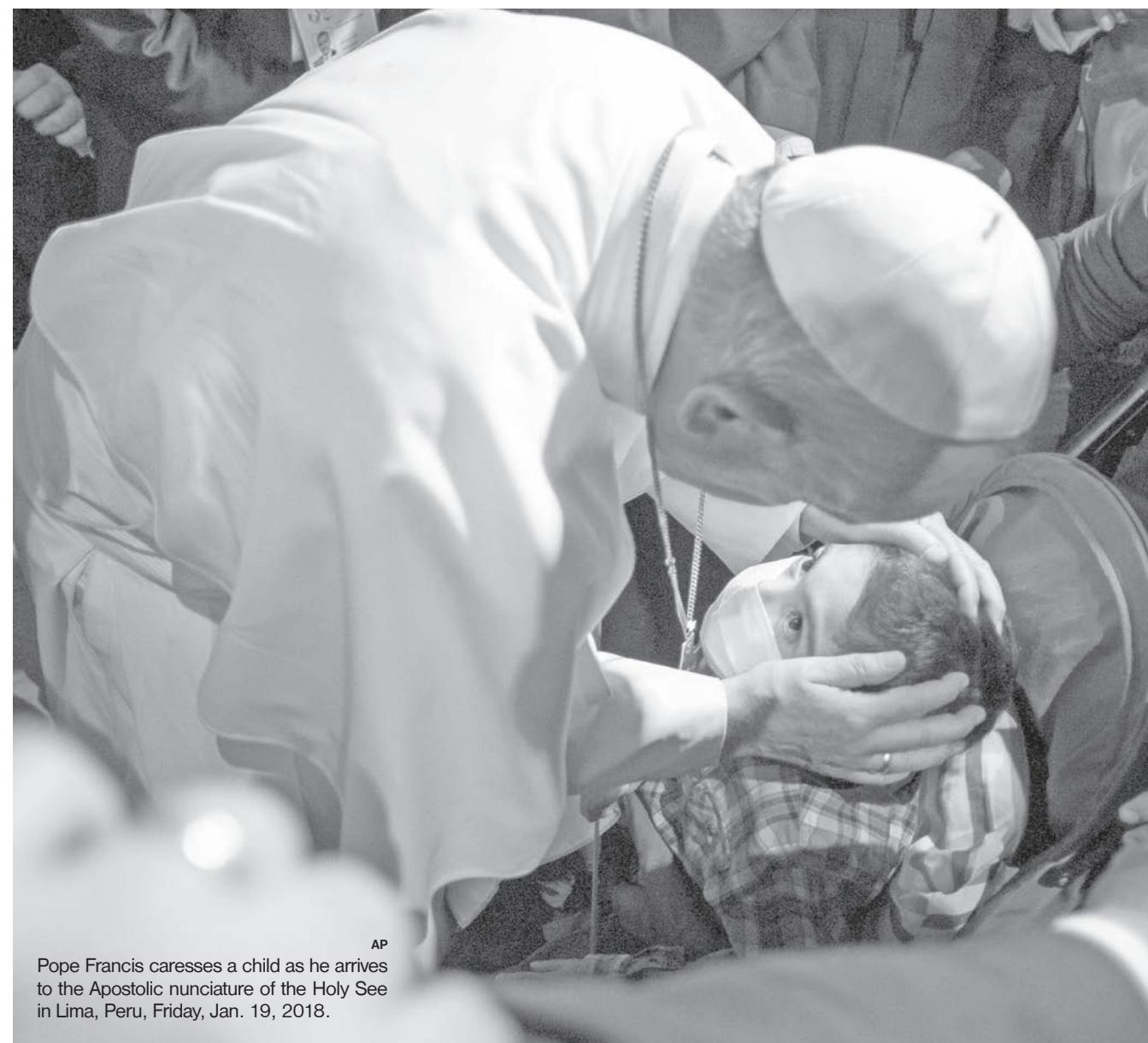
and shun the oversight of European courts while retaining access to the single market.

It will also dash the hopes of some in Britain who thought Macron might be more flexible than German Chancellor Angela Merkel in negotiating a deal. Macron's influence within the EU is on the rise as Merkel's position weakens following an election in September that eroded her power base. Merkel has still not been able to cobble together a coalition government even after months of talks with other political parties.

Macron's comments echo those he made during a meeting Thursday in which he and British Prime Minister Theresa May pledged closer cooperation on defense and border security after Britain leaves the EU in March 2019. Macron said the U.K.'s financial services industry can't keep its coveted access to the EU market unless the country continues playing by EU rules.

"As soon as you decide not to join these preconditions, it's not a full access," Macron told the BBC.

"What's important is not to make people think, or believe, that it's possible to have" your cake and eat it, he said, accepting Marr's suggestion for the last five words.



AP
Pope Francis caresses a child as he arrives to the Apostolic nunciature of the Holy See in Lima, Peru, Friday, Jan. 19, 2018.

Francis stirred outrage when he accused victims of Chile's most notorious pedophile priest of slander. The 81-year-old Argentine said that until he sees proof that Bishop Juan Barros was complicit in covering up any crimes, accusations of complicity by the

victims of against Barros are "all calumny."

That remark prompted even Francis' top adviser on clerical abuse to issue a stunning criticism of the pontiff, calling his words a "source of great pain for survivors of sexual abuse."

The rebuke Saturday came as Francis was consoling Peruvians in a coastal northern city hard hit by El Nino floods that left more than 150 dead nationwide last year. During Francis' three days in Peru he has also tackled heavy social issues, call-

ing on corporations to stop exploitative drilling in the Amazon, for governments to recognize indigenous people and for greater transparency in politics.

Francis will conclude his trip by visiting some of Lima's holiest sites.

WORLD BRIEFS

Turkey says border town hit by rockets from Syria; 1 wounded

HASSA, Turkey (AP)—A Turkish official says suspected Syrian Kurdish fighters have fired rockets from across the border, slightly wounding one person. Gov. Mehmet Tekinarslan says four rockets struck the town of Kilis early Sunday, hitting two houses and an office. He says Turkish artillery returned fire. The attack came as dozens of Turkish jets pounded the Kurdish-run enclave of Afrin in northern Syria. Afrin is controlled by a Syrian Kurdish militia that Turkey views as part of the Kurdish insurgency in its southeast. The militia forms the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces, the main U.S. ally against the Islamic State group in Syria. The state-run Anadolu

Agency says Turkey-backed Syrian forces have penetrated the enclave and are advancing. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim says a Turkish ground offensive could begin Sunday.

2 Americans, 2 Canadians abducted in Nigeria are freed

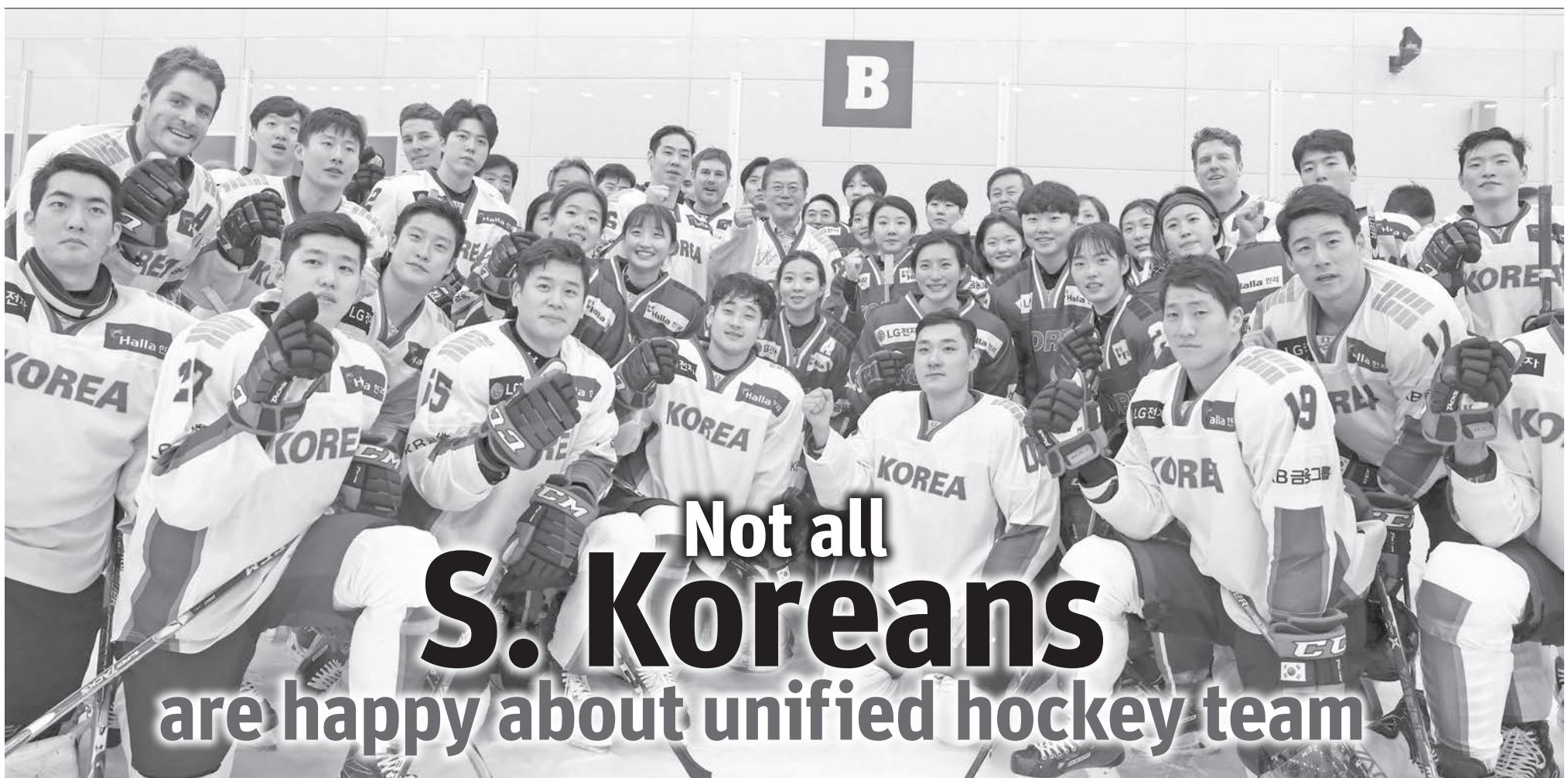
YOLA, Nigeria (AP)—Two Americans and two Canadians who were kidnapped in Nigeria's north-central Kaduna state on Tuesday have been freed and are in good condition, police said Saturday. Police and a special anti-kidnapping squad rescued the foreigners in the Kagara local government area Friday night after a massive manhunt, state police commissioner Agyole Abeh said. "No ransom was paid. It was the efforts of the police through the directives of

the Inspector General of Police that led to their release," he said. One suspect was arrested in connection with the kidnapping and police were on the trail of remaining suspects, Abeh said. The foreigners have been taken to the capital, Abuja, Kaduna state police spokesman Mukhtar Aliyu said. "They are in good condition but due to trauma they have to undergo medical observation," Aliyu said. Gunmen ambushed the foreigners Tuesday as they traveled from Kafanchan in Kaduna state to Abuja. Two police escorts were killed in what police called a "fierce gun battle." The Americans and Canadians have not been publicly identified. Aliyu earlier said they are investors setting up solar stations in villages around Kafanchan.

Protesters, police clash at roadblocks in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Clashes have broken out in Honduras as demonstrators protesting President Juan Orlando Hernandez's re-election blocked roads in several locations and police moved into to break up the barricades. Police say four officers were injured Saturday, one seriously. At least seven demonstrators were detained. Former President Manuel Zelaya has supported protests on behalf of presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla, who claims there was fraud in counts of the November vote. Hernandez was awarded the electoral win last month despite the disputed vote tally. The opposition plans to continue protesting through his swearing-in Jan. 27.

Focus



South Korean President Moon Jae-in, center top, poses with South Korean women's and men's ice hockey team players during a visit to Jincheon National Training Center in Jincheon, South Korea, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018. There is growing concern in South Korea that a proposal to form a joint women's hockey team with North Korea for the Olympics could be bad for the South Korean players. AP

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Koreans seem generally happy they'll see the North Koreans at their Olympics, but aren't as pleased about sharing a team with them.

The agreement between the war-separated rivals to field a unified women's ice hockey team at February's Winter Olympics has triggered a debate in South Korea, where there's no longer strong public clamor for reunification or for using sports to make political statements.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who views the Pyeongchang Games as an opportunity to improve relations following a year of tension over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, said the unified team would provide a "historically grand moment" once it appears on ice.

Other reconciliatory gestures the Koreas have agreed to for the Olympics include a joint march under a blue-and-white "unification" flag during the Feb. 9 opening ceremony and a pair of performances by a visiting North Korean art troupe. The joint march and the unified hockey team were approved Saturday by the International Olympic Committee, which allowed 22 North Korean athletes to take part in the games in exceptional entries given to the North.

Not all South Koreans are in the mood. There are apparently few objections to the North

Korean presence at the Olympics itself, which likely ensures that the country holds off any significant weapons test or other aggressive acts that would risk disrupting the games.

Many South Koreans believe their government went too far by pushing athletes into a "political show" that will likely become meaningless once the lull in tensions breaks down after the Olympics.

Kim Hye-jin, a 39-year-old music instructor, said that South Korea was repeating an "outdated approach" in using sports diplomacy. She said that the previous unified teams and joint marches between the rivals never paved the way for sustained, meaningful engagement.

"We are always repeating meaningless things and North Korea isn't a country that will change easily," she said.

Plus, she said, a unified team takes away opportunities from South Korean athletes who have been working hard to prepare for the Olympics.

Heo Doo-won, a 40-year-old schoolteacher, didn't care for the reconciliatory gestures at all.

"Why are we doing this?" he asked. "We are clearly two different countries and it's better if things stay that way. I don't want a unified team or a unification flag. Why can't we just let the North Koreans march under their own flag?"

While the liberal Moon remains a popular president nine months into his term, the controversy over the hockey team factored in his approval rating dipping below 70 percent for



South Korean President Moon Jae-in, left, is greeted by South Korean women's hockey team players during a visit to Jincheon National Training Center in Jincheon, South Korea, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018.

the first time in four months, according to a Gallup Korea report on Friday.

Many people sympathize with the South Korean athletes who would likely be sacrificing opportunities for the North's players, who are considered less skilled and experienced. The IOC approved an expanded roster of 35 instead of 22 for the joint team, but only the normal number will be allowed to suit up for each game and three of them must be North Korean.

The South Korean team's Canadian coach, Sarah Murray, has expressed concerns over chemistry.

"Adding somebody so close to the Olympics is a little bit dangerous just for team chemistry because the girls have been together for so long," she said last week.

Choi Hyuk, a 40-year-old

office worker, blamed the government for failing to properly communicate with the players and for excessively politicizing sports.

Choi pointed to the comments of Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon, who was forced to apologize after saying that the South Korean women's hockey team was out of "medal range" anyway while defending the government's decision to create the unified team.

"South Korea's elite sports have always been based on nationalism," Choi said, referring to a decades-long system that rewards Olympic medal winners with lifelong cash payments and exemption from military duties that are mandatory for most able-bodied men.

"Isn't it funny that the same country is now asking athletes to cut back on their playing time and embrace changes that would

make them less likely to win?"

The reconciliation mood between the Koreas began after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in a New Year's speech that he was willing to send a delegation to the Olympics.

Some experts view Kim's overture as an attempt to weaken U.S.-led international sanctions against the North and buy time to further advance his nuclear weapons program. Last year, North Korea carried out its sixth and biggest nuclear test and test-fired three intercontinental ballistic missiles. It has shown no willingness to give up its ambitions.

Still, many experts think Moon's government made the right move in jumping at the opportunity to resume contact with North Korea after nearly two years of diplomatic stalemate and animosity.

In an annual policy report on Friday, South Korea's Unification Ministry said it aims to use the Olympics as an opportunity to re-establish regular dialogue with North Korea. The resumption of inter-Korean talks is crucial for the policies of Moon, who wants Seoul in the driver's seat in international efforts to deal with the North Korean nuclear threat.

The Koreas sent joint teams to major international sporting events twice in 1991, and had their athletes march together in the opening and closing ceremonies of several sporting events in the 2000s, including the 2000 Sydney Summer Olympics.

While the previous moves

had little diplomatic impact, similar gestures would carry more meaning in an Olympics held on South Korean soil and amid higher stakes in regional security, said Yongchul Chung, a sports education professor at Seoul's Sogang University.

"Fielding a unified team is very meaningful—the biggest fruit that can come from the Pyeongchang Olympics is a message of peace between the Koreas," Chung said. "It's not like the players wouldn't understand the historic significance of what they are involved in."

But it has become harder to get South Koreans excited for unified teams and joint marches when North Korea's increasingly aggressive weapons tests and the South's own evolution as an economy and society continue to erode the public's enthusiasm for reunification.

In a survey of 1,200 adults released by Seoul National University in October, 53.8 percent of the respondents said they supported the idea of reunification. This represented a steep drop from the 63.8 percent measured in 2007, when the school started the annual survey.

"I think it will be emotionally moving to watch the athletes of both Koreas march under the same flag during the opening ceremony as we come from the same nation," said Oh Ju-yeon, a 46-year-old housewife. "But after the games, there will be bitterness from realizing that nothing's really going to change."

Health & Fitness

Bend It Like Bollywood mixes fitness with Indian-inspired dance

By VALERIE BONK
THE BALTIMORE SUN/TNS

S

ailaja Kilambi tried about every fitness class she could find online, from weight training to yoga and Pilates. Then, about three years ago, she found a Bollywood-style exercise class called Naach and thought she would give it a try.

"I thought dancing would be fun but because I had never danced be-

fore," says the 42-year-old Ellicott City resident. "My family said 'no way' because they thought it would be embarrassing for me."

But an instructor with Bend It Like Bollywood, the local business offering the classes, assured her no experience was necessary; fitness was the goal of the class, which draws from



Left, Swati Reddy, Elkridge, in a Bend It Like Bollywood class at the Maple Lawn Community Center. The fitness-oriented class uses Bollywood music and dance movements.

KIM HAIRSTON/BALTIMORE SUN/TNS



KIM HAIRSTON/BALTIMORE SUN/TNS

Foreground, Pavani Reddy, Elliott City, and, in background, Sharanya Pathumudi Halambi, Columbia, teach a fitness-oriented class using Bollywood music and dance movements. Reddy is founder of Bend It Like Bollywood and Pathumudi Halambi is managing director.

the iconic dance moves of the Indian film industry.

Kilambi now takes classes weekly, seeing improvements in her body and emotional well-being.

"I'm more of a shy person to begin with. ... These dance moves are the perfect combination of cardio, core strength, posture and flexibility, and I became much more confident in my body and dancing in front of others," she says.

Pavani Reddy, 30, of Ellicott City started Bend It Like Bollywood in 2013. It was a childhood dream of hers.

"I would sit and watch these Bollywood dancers on the television when I was young, and I always knew that I wanted to go to the United States when I was done with my studies and teach our culture to those who haven't experienced it," says Reddy, who was born in India and moved to the U.S. in 2012.

Classes are taught at various community and fitness centers in Howard County. In addition to adult fitness classes, Bend It Like Bollywood instructors also teach tradi-

tional Bollywood dance for all ages.

The fitness classes feature upbeat music—from folk and Bollywood tunes to songs fused with modern hits by musicians like Ed Sheeran and Major Lazer. Step-by-step choreography includes fast hip movements and even facial movements.

"You work your entire body, from your head and your shoulders all the way down to your toes," Reddy says.

Ellicott City resident Joyce Mahabier says that she's met new friends in the class and it feels like a chance to socialize while getting a full-body workout.

"You feel like you're dancing and going out without having to get dressed up," says Mahabier, 37. "It's a blast dancing in your yoga pants while getting an incredible workout."

Senior dance instructor Sharanya Pathumudi says that seeing new people learn the Bollywood moves makes teaching exciting.

"The music is so energetic and quirky, and the dance moves are so fun that it really gets everyone up on their feet and learning something new," Pathumudi says.

The importance of dietary fiber

Foods containing fiber help you in important ways, including keeping your digestive tract functioning properly. A high-fiber diet also can reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

But how much fiber do you need and what ways can you get it?

"It's good to start your day with some high-fiber foods," says Kate Zeratsky, a Mayo Clinic dietitian.

Zeratsky says the right breakfast can get you more than a quarter of the way to your daily fiber goal.

"High-fiber cereals are an easy and tasty way to get your fiber in," says Zeratsky. "Also, fruits are a good source of fiber, and nuts and seeds."

So are whole-grain products. Vegetables offer lots of roughage. And beans and legumes are great sources of fiber.

Men under 50 should strive to get at least 38 grams of fiber a day. Old-



Foods containing fiber, like whole-grain products and fruit, are very helpful to your body.

DREAMSTIME

er men should strive for 30 grams. Women under 50 should aim for at least 25 grams. And older women aim for at least 21 grams.

"My recommendation is, as people increase the amount of fiber in their diet to meet those recommendations, to do it slowly and gradu-

ally," says Zeratsky. "And drink plenty of water."

You'll be promoting bowel health, and protecting against bad cholesterol and diabetes. Plus, since fiber stays in your stomach longer, you may find it easier to maintain a healthy weight. (Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)

Personal Trainer

Building explosive strength

"Plyometric" training is a technique that concentrates on developing explosive muscle strength and fast, powerful movement.

Some
plyometric
exercises



Medicine ball catch

- 1 Person lies on back
- 2 Partner drops medicine ball toward person's chest
- 3 Person catches ball, immediately throws it back



Jump and hold

- 1 From standing, jump short distance
- 2 Hold muscles in contracted position after landing
- 3 Jump and hold again; repeat for 100 ft. (30 m); make jumps progressively higher, some of them onto a raised surface



To learn more

- Find a coach or trainer who uses plyometrics specifically designed for your chosen sport
- Find a personal trainer who emphasizes plyometric exercises in strength training

Source: UK Athletics senior athletics coach Brian Mackenzie
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

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Life & Style

Tabloid held porn star's 2011 interview after Trump threat

NEW YORK (AP)—A tabloid magazine held back from publishing an adult film star's 2011 account of an alleged affair with Donald Trump after the future president's personal lawyer threatened to sue, four former employees of the tabloid's publisher told The Associated Press.



Daniels

In Touch magazine published its 5,000-word interview with the pornographic actor Stormy Daniels on Friday—more than six years after Trump's long-time attorney, Michael Cohen, sent

an email to In Touch's general counsel saying Trump would aggressively pursue legal action if the story was printed, according to emails described to the AP by the former employees.

At the time, Trump was a reality TV star on the NBC show "The Apprentice."

The ex-employees spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to discuss their former employer's editorial policies.

Daniels, whose real name

is Stephanie Clifford, signed a source contract with the magazine, which said a friend and Clifford's ex-husband corroborated her account of a 2006 tryst. She also passed a lie detector test, the magazine said.

In the interview, Daniels claims she and Trump had a sexual encounter after meeting at a golf tournament in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, a year after Trump's marriage to his third wife, Melania.

Cohen has denied Trump had any relationship with Clifford. He didn't immediately return a message seeking comment Friday.



'WINTER IS HERE'

A large decoration is seen inside a Game of Thrones-themed ice hotel in Kittila, Finnish Lapland on Sunday Jan. 14, 2018. A "Game of Thrones"-themed ice hotel complete with a bar and a chapel for weddings has opened in northern Finland in a joint effort by a local hotel chain and the U.S. producers of the hit TV series. Lapland Hotels said Friday they chose "Game of Thrones" to be the theme for this season's Snow Village, an annual ice-and-snow construction project covering 20,000 square meters (24,000 sq. yards) in Kittila, 150 kilometers (93 miles) above the Arctic Circle.

AP

Job applicant is devastated when dream falls through

DEAR ABBY: I recently was rejected for a job that would have turned into a career. I put all my eggs in one basket, so to speak, and told everyone around me during the process that it was looking good. I am humiliated because I now have to tell my peers and co-workers that it didn't work out.

My confidence is shaken, and I don't know what to do. In my middle school years, I used to know what I wanted to do, but somewhere in high school up to this point (25 years old), I've lost my vision, my dream. How can I find my way again?

IN A SLUMP OUT EAST

DEAR IN A SLUMP: The path to success is rarely straight. Most of us learn more from our mistakes than our successes, so take heart. While this experience has been disappointing, you have learned valuable lessons from it.

If you do not wish to stay in your current job, finding your way again may be as simple as inquiring if career counseling is available at your nearest community college. Ask whether aptitude tests are offered, then research what kinds of jobs are available for someone with your qualifications and interests. And when you are again in the running for a new position, keep it to yourself until you have officially accepted it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter married into a wealthy family. Since the beginning, her mother-in-law has used money to con-

trol her. Although it bothered me, I didn't say anything.

We now have a granddaughter, and the mother-in-law is controlling how much time we get to see her. Unfortunately, my daughter allows her to do this. What can I do? I am heartsick.

THE OTHER GRANDMA

DEAR OTHER GRANDMA: Your mistake was in not speaking up when you first noticed what was going on. If you haven't expressed your feelings, you should. Whether it will lead to any improvements, I can't guarantee. But if it doesn't, and your daughter continues to allow herself to be ruled by her MIL's checkbook, you will have to accept that the daughter you raised has seriously misplaced values.

You are obviously someone with a lot of love to give. A program that has been mentioned before in my column -- and that might interest you -- is Foster Grandparents, which is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The website is nationalservice.gov. Click on "Programs" and you will find it listed under "Senior Corps."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My son is going to have his first communion soon. We don't have the money to have a party -- even an inexpensive one -- and invite the whole family. I would like to restrict the celebration just to my husband, myself and my child's grandparents. However, I feel bad not inviting his godparents,

Singer Ed Sheeran announces engagement on Instagram

Ed Sheeran has announced his engagement to girlfriend Cherry Seaborn.

The Grammy-winning singer posted a picture of the two on his Instagram page Saturday morning saying the two

got engaged right before the new year.

He said they are "very happy and in love" and that their "cats are chuffed as well."

Sheeran said last fall how Seaborn inspired his song "Per-

fect," which is Number One on the Billboard Hot 100 charts.

Sheeran and Seaborn were friends when the two attended school in Suffolk, England. They reconnected years later. (AP)

'The Shape of Water' wins top Producers Guild Award

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.

(AP)—Women and inclusivity continued to dominate the awards season conversation Saturday at the Producers Guild Awards, where Guillermo del Toro's fantastical romance "The Shape of Water" won the top award and honorees like Jordan Peele and Ava DuVernay gave rousing speeches to the room of enter-

tainment industry leaders.

The untelevised dinner and ceremony, held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., is closely watched for its capacity to predict the eventual Oscar best picture winner, but this year the "awards race" seemed to be the secondary show to the more urgent questions facing the industry, including the crisis of represen-

tation and sexual misconduct.

The Producers Guild on Friday ratified guidelines for combating sexual harassment in the entertainment industry, and everyone from DuVernay to Universal Chair Donna Langley and television mogul Ryan Murphy made mention of the changing times and the work that still needs to be done.

Autopsy: Tom Petty died of accidental drug overdose

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Petty died last year because of an accidental drug overdose that his family said occurred on the same day he found out his hip was broken after performing dozens of shows with a less serious injury.

His wife and daughter released the results of Petty's au-

topsy via a statement Friday on his Facebook page, moments before coroner's officials in Los Angeles released their findings and the rocker's full autopsy report. Dana and Adria Petty say they got the results from the coroner's office earlier in the day that the overdose was due to a variety of medications.

The coroner's findings showed Petty had a mix of prescription painkillers, sedatives and an antidepressant. Among the medications found in his system were fentanyl and oxycodone. An accidental overdose of fentanyl was also determined to have killed Prince in April 2016.

Kim and Kanye choose Chicago for their new baby's name

Chicago—where Kanye West was raised—is the name of baby No. 3 with Kim Kardashian West.

Mom made the announcement Friday on her app without explanation. Chicago was born Monday, weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces. She joins big sister North, 4, and middle

brother Saint, 2.

Kardashian West's fertilized egg had been implanted into a surrogate, who gave birth to the child. The rapper and the reality star chose to use a carrier after Kim suffered pregnancy complications with her two older children. She said her doctors told her it wasn't safe for her to

carry another baby.

The name choice generated a bit of buzz in Chicago and on social media, where the wind jokes flew. The hashtag #BabyWest trended on Twitter in the U.S. by late afternoon Friday, with Kardashian West tweeting out the nickname Chi. So are we yay or nay?

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



their siblings and other extended family. How do I tell them they are welcome to stop by the church, but aren't obligated to come, and we won't be having a party?

TRYING TO KEEP IT SIMPLE

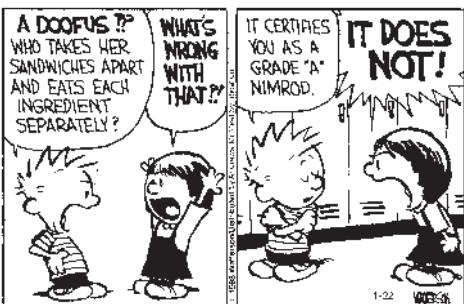
DEAR TRYING: I don't think it would be rude to explain to your son's godparents and extended family that they are welcome to come by the church for your child's first communion, but because of financial constraints there will be no celebration afterward. It's the truth.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



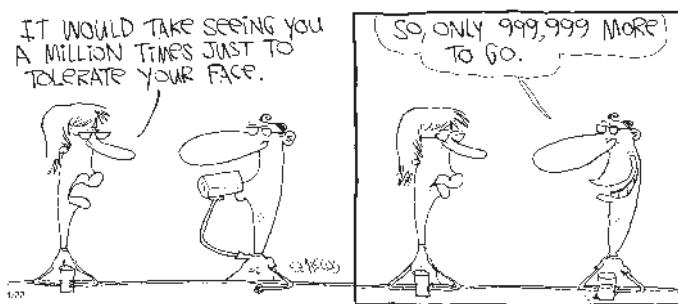
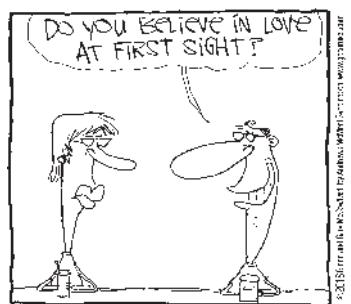
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

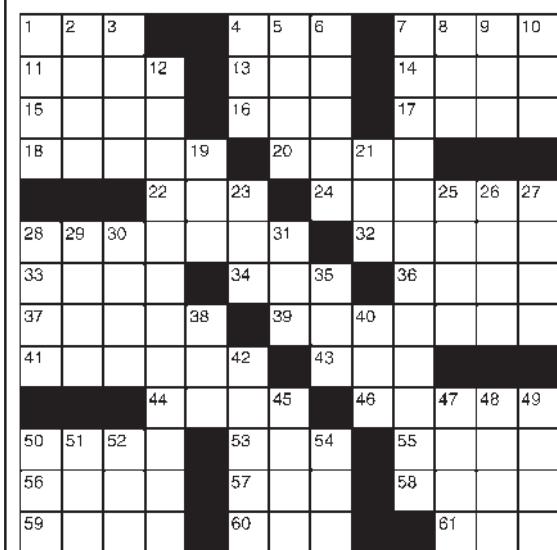
By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS | 43 | Royal | 21 | — pro |
|------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 High tennis shot | 43 | insomnia cause | 22 | nobis |
| 4 Canine cry | 44 | Social standing | 23 | "Pssst!" |
| 7 — Martin (cognac) | 45 | Surrounded by | 24 | "Arrivederci!" |
| 11 Modern taxi rival | 46 | 50 Presidential power | 25 | Medal |
| 13 "Ben—" | 47 | 51 Swiss money | 26 | earner |
| 14 Pac-12 sch. | 48 | 52 Tonic's mixer | 27 | Flair |
| 15 Taboo | 49 | 53 Turn the soil | 28 | Hot tubs |
| 16 Literary collection | 50 | 54 "So be it" | 29 | Musical finale |
| 17 Squarish | 51 | 55 Tram load | 30 | Horseshoe site |
| 18 Manage to survive | 52 | 56 Fill fully | 31 | Game official |
| 20 Uppity one | 53 | 57 Convent managers | 32 | 35 Vigor |
| 22 "Humbug!" | 54 | 58 Ring decision | 33 | Historic time |
| 24 Nativity display | 55 | 59 Hanking | 34 | 40 Yacht spot |
| 28 Certain plotter | 56 | 60 Hanger | 35 | 42 Gold mold |
| 32 Disney mermaid | 57 | 61 Thanksgiving | 36 | 45 "Star Trek" captain |
| 33 Indigent | 58 | 62 Veggie | 37 | 47 Skin-care brand |
| 34 "Uh-huh" | 59 | 63 Nata | 38 | 48 Memo |
| 36 Poet Teasdale | 60 | 64 Cobras | 39 | 49 "Hollaback Girl" singer |
| 37 Pueblo material | 61 | 65 Jakkahia | 40 | 50 Moving-day rental |
| 39 Decorate | 62 | 66 Pagan | 41 | 51 Ostrich's kin |
| 41 Jungle expedition | 63 | 67 Yes | 52 | 54 Sawbuck |
| | 64 | 68 Ta | 53 | 55 Prefix with natal |
| | 65 | 69 Agape | 54 | |

Solution time: 26 mins.



Last Friday's Answer 01-22



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Balthazar Getty, 43; Guy Fieri, 50; Diane Lane, 53; DJ Jazzy Jeff, 53.

Happy Birthday: Looking back will do you a lot of good. Make adjustments to ensure that you don't make the same mistake twice. Keep your life simple and stay away from temptation. Get rid of poor habits and incorporate more discipline, thought and mindfulness into your everyday routine. Protect your honor, reputation and personal information. Change should begin from within. Your numbers are 3, 14, 20, 24, 31, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): There is no limit to what you can do to help others. Only your own fear of failure or reluctance to do your part can keep you from setting a standard for others to follow. You can make a difference. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen and respond cautiously. How you present your thoughts will make a difference to the way people treat you. Reveal little about yourself but ask questions that will give you as much personal information about others as possible. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Personal gains can be made. Spend more time addressing emotional issues and making changes to the way you look. A creative pursuit will allow you to help others. Sign up to volunteer for a cause you believe in. Love has no limits. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sit tight. Don't follow someone eager to make a hasty decision. Explore new interests, but

don't let anyone talk you into investing time or money in something you know little about. Research will put your mind at ease. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Set your agenda and follow through. Take a physical approach to getting things done your way. Counting on others will cost you too much and not live up to your expectations. Avoid indulgent or negative people. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to let emotional spending take over. Look over your personal documents and medical concerns and sort out what needs to be updated. Don't feel pressured to make a hasty decision. Look for alternatives to what's being offered. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think twice before you make a move. It's important to fully understand the repercussions of your actions. Concentrate on personal improvements, not trying to change those around you. Say less and do more when dealing with someone you love. **★★★**

GEMINI (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put more emphasis on what you know, not what you have or how you look. Take the initiative to protect your assets and possessions and to do things in your own unique way. Trust in your abilities. **★★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Improve your living quarters. Pay it forward by donating items you no longer use to charities that help those in need. There is no limit to what you can do when you make up your mind to make a difference. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sit tight. Don't follow someone eager to make a hasty decision. Explore new interests, but

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stay calm and wait to get all the facts before you make a judgment call. Pour your energy into something constructive and don't be tempted to follow someone offering something that sounds too good to be true. Trust your intuition. **★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Decide what is doable and start heading in that direction. Having a plan in place before you begin your journey will help you advance from your current position to your destination of choice. Romance will improve your life. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You've got options, so before you make changes that will disrupt your life or important relationships, consider what's best for you. Combine your knowledge and experience with your imaginative ideas and you will come up with a solid plan. **★★★**

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, eclectic and engaging. You are enticing and insightful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 9 | | 7 |
| 2 | | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| | | 4 | 9 | |
| 9 | | | 2 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 2 | | | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | | |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | | 9 |
| 6 | | 5 | 1 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 5 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUDET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

*RIVERDALE (NETFLIX SERIES)

Solution: 12 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | O | C | C | M | A | R | K | A | L | I | M | A | C | D |
| T | D | S | S | E | K | A | H | S | K | L | I | M | O | A |
| T | E | K | T | E | E | K | S | I | D | E | S | A | N | E |
| E | R | J | P | A | C | O | J | N | E | S | D | S | H | |
| B | F | A | U | P | C | I | L | I | L | A | R | E | U | G |
| S | S | P | H | L | E | Y | L | C | C | E | E | L | E | U |
| E | N | A | R | N | R | I | S | A | W | K | L | A | L | J |
| V | I | H | H | E | I | I | S | S | O | C | L | I | O | S |
| E | W | W | H | H | E | P | E | C | O | U | K | E | N | S |
| R | T | C | C | Y | R | O | R | H | J | P | K | E | P | N |
| O | L | H | I | R | A | M | O | S | S | O | B | R | E | |
| N | O | L | I | R | A | N | I | C | H | O | L | S | O | P |
| I | D | U | Y | E | S | A | C | O | L | E | L | I | U | R |
| C | G | K | T | P | K | E | V | I | N | W | Q | T | S | E |
| A | E | E | L | O | S | I | R | A | M | E | N | D | E | S |

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Aguirre-Sacasa, Alice, Andrews, Archie, Betty, Blossom, Camila, Casey, Cheryl, Cole, Consuelos, Cooper, Fred, Hermione, H

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Don't speak too soon

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

| ADS | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • 3-Liner • 5-Liner | \$15 \$24 |
| | \$30 \$45 |

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) **Householder** - Knowledge in cooking Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and baby sitting. With valid driver's license.

(3) **Security Guard** - Wide security experience in access systems, patrolling, investigative procedures, incident report writing, and customer service. Atleast 2 years of experience. Willing to work flexible time.

(6) **Trash Collector** - Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

(1) **Garbage Collector Supervisor** - Experienced in supervising and coordinating activities of workers engaged in collecting garbage and other refuse and transporting to disposal plants or areas. With valid driving license. Hardworking and trustworthy. Willing to work flexible time.

(2) **Auto Mechanic** - Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

Submit Applications To: AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

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JC Marketing Inc.

WAREHOUSE-DELIVERY MAN

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- Responsible in the distribution of products in its designated place and ensure that the products delivered has the right quantity, payments, and delivered in the right place.

Submit your resume to JC Marketing office located at middle road Chalan Laulau or email at adminspn@jcmarketinginc.com. Tel: (670) 235-6335

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www.guam.wish.org

Happy Adair!
Saipan Tribune

Faith, Hope and

KARIDAT **A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service**
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description can be obtained from Karidat main office at Chalan Piao.

Documents required: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resumé, current police clearance and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 AT 4:30 P.M.


MICRONESIA | CNMI
RENEWABLE ENERGY INC.
sunova
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
WAREHOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE/CLERK

Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI is looking for an Administrator for our Warehouse and Construction support to join our ever growing team of professionals.

Office Support:

- Maintain filing system (Warehouse and Job site requirements and distribution of essential equipment and tools to our technicians).
- Maintain Warehouse and office supplies/equipment, ordering and scheduling maintenance as necessary.
- Assist Staff in various administration responsibilities, including archiving of files.
- Become familiar with and utilize Field and Job Cost Procedures.
- support the sales director in various administration support activities

Accounting Administration:

- Assist Operations Director with accounting of projects, material and high/low levels of inventory.
- Process Warehouse Inventory Spreadsheets.

Reporting:

- Produce warehouse summary reports
- Provide daily Reports to the Operations Director.
- Track and maintain inventory

Qualifications:

- Preferably US Citizen or Green Card Holder
- Must have 4+ years clerical/administrative experience preferably in the construction industry.
- Must have excellent computer skills and be able to demonstrate proficiency with MS Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Must be able to work in a fast-paced warehouse/office environment, able to multi task, meet critical deadlines with eye for accuracy and attention to details.
- Ability to work with all levels of project staff and organization

Applications can be picked up at MRE Office (Across Highway Express/Shell Gualo Rai) or call Del Renojo @ (670) 233-4673 for more info.
Send your completed employment application and/or resume to jvoacolo@micronesiarenewableenergy.com


Department of Finance
Division of Procurement and Supply
E-mail: procurement@pticom.com

ADDENDUM NO.1

ITB 18-DCCA/HPO-035

P.O. Box 510008 CK Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-1500 Fax: (670) 664-1515
"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) UNIT NEW COPIER MACHINE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

January 19, 2018

This addendum is issued to **SUSPEND** the bid opening on **January 22, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**, for the above referenced ITB until further notice.

*/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S*

CC: The Honorable Robert H. Hunter, Secretary of DCCA
Historic Preservation Officer


Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2018-001

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian (20 units)

Proposal packets will be available on **January 02, 2018**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or the Tinian Field Office in San Jose, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMICAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on January 24, 2018, at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose, Tinian.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

*/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors*

*/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply*

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**Legislative Bureau**NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT****Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-18-002****PL-UNGRADED: \$1,148.36 B/W**

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

Position: Legislative Assistant**Opening Date: January 10, 2018****Closing Date: January 31, 2018****Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan****General Duties:**

- Drafts legislative documents including but not limited to resolutions, committee reports, and letters, as requested by the Chairperson of the Committee to which he or she is assigned to;
- Attends legislative session and committee meetings as requested by the Chairperson of his or her assigned committee;
- Performs investigative and legislative research and analysis;
- Prepares reports and studies including preparation of letters, legislation, and related documents as requested by members of his or her assigned respective legislative house;
- Maintains a reasonable record of all tasks assigned by his or her immediate supervisor Chairperson of the Committee or other members of his or her assigned respective legislative house and such record is subject to review upon request; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess four years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;**
- Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process;**
- Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills;**
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis; and**
- Undergo a pre-employment drug test.**

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate and a police clearance must be attached to the application. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9800. Facsimile (670)236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS****Announcement No. 18-15****POSITION TITLE:**

Department:

Annual Salary:

Location:

Opening Date: 1/22/2018

Deputy Marshal I

Marshal Services Division

\$20,000

Saipan

Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-16**POSITION TITLE:**

Department:

Annual Salary:

Location:

Opening Date: 1/22/2018

Deputy Marshal I (Drug Court)

Marshal Services Division

\$20,000

Saipan

Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-17**POSITION TITLE:**

Department:

Annual Salary Range:

Location:

Opening Date: 1/22/2018

Probation Officer I

Office of Adult Probation

\$21,000 - \$24,563.73

Saipan

Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-18**POSITION TITLE:**

Department:

Annual Salary Range:

Location:

Opening Date: 1/22/2018

Probation Officer I

Office of Adult Probation

\$21,000 - \$24,563.73

Saipan

Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-19**POSITION TITLE:**

Department:

Annual Salary:

Location:

Opening Date: 1/22/2018

Assistant Probation Officer

Officer of Adult Probation

\$20,208.64

Saipan

Closing Date: Until Filled

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources

Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670)236-9818 • Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>
THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 501521, Navy Hill - Bldg. N2

Saipan, MP 96950

**"Together We Can Build a Future!"****Attention:**

Students with Disabilities in Secondary, Postsecondary, or Other Recognized Education Program

Notice/Announcement Regarding:

The availability of Pre-Employment Transition Services to Students with Disabilities who meet the WIOA Definition of "Student with a Disability"

Background:

In July 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law by then President Obama. WIOA requires Public Vocational Rehabilitation Programs to reserve 15% of its Title I federal funds to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services (commonly referred to as Pre-ETS) to Students with Disabilities.

Target Population:

Pre-Employment Transition Services are provided to "students with disabilities" who are:

- Eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services; or
- Potentially eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (i.e. all students with disabilities, including those who have not applied or been determined eligible for VR services)

WIOA Definition of "Student with Disability":

A "Student with a Disability" is an individual with a disability in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who ~

- Is between 16 and 21 years old; and
- Is eligible for, and receiving special education or related services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; or
- Is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

Recognized Credential of Education:

Educational programming includes programs that provide a recognized credential of education, such as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program. Examples of recognized postsecondary credentials include: Secondary School diploma or recognized equivalent; Associate's degree; Bachelor's degree; Occupational licensure; Occupational certificate, including Registered Apprenticeship and Career and Technical Education educational certificates; Occupational certification; Other recognized certificates of industry/ occupational skills completion sufficient to qualify for entry-level or advancement in employment.

Purpose:

To help students begin to identify career interests and to learn skills in preparation for transition to employment and/or post-secondary education. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) will make every effort to provide or coordinate the following services to ensure statewide availability.

Five (5) Required Pre-ETS Activities:

(1) Job Exploration Counseling may include, but is not limited to, the following examples: Review of information regarding in-demand industry sectors and occupations; Administration of vocational interest inventories and provision of local labor market information that applies to the student's particular interests; Identification of career pathways of interest to the students.

(2) Work-Based Learning Experiences may include opportunities that are available in school, after school, or outside the traditional school setting; however, they must be provided in an integrated setting in the community to the maximum extent possible. Services may include, but are not limited to, the following examples: Coordinating a school-based program of job training and information interviews to research employers; Worksite tours to learn about necessary job skills; Job shadowing; Mentoring opportunities in the community; Onsite work-based experiences (paid or unpaid) such as internships, volunteering, practicums, service learning, or apprenticeships (excluding Pre-apprenticeships and Registered apprenticeships) located in the community.

(3) Counseling on Opportunities for Enrollment in Comprehensive Transition or Post-Secondary Education Program may include, but is not limited to, the following examples: Exploring the types of academic and occupational training needed to succeed in the workplace; Postsecondary opportunities associated with career fields or pathways; Self-advocacy skills for the purpose of identifying accommodations and services in an educational program as well as providing resources that may be used to support individual student success in education and training (i.e. disability support services); Advising students and/or parents or representatives on academic curricula and course offerings; Providing information about college application and admissions processes; Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

(4) Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living necessary for employment may include, but is not limited to, the following examples: Learning communication and interpersonal skills; Financial literacy, including benefits planning services; Orientation and mobility skills to access workplace readiness training or to learn to travel independently; Job-seeking skills; Understanding employer expectations for punctuality and performance as well as other "soft" skills necessary for employment; Onsite workplace readiness training during a work-based learning experience.

(5) Instruction in Self-Advocacy which may include, but is not limited to, the following examples: Learning about their rights and responsibilities; Learning how to request accommodations, services, or supports; Mentoring with education staff (e.g., principals, nurses, teachers, or office staff); Peer mentoring with individuals employed by or volunteering employers, boards, associations, or organizations in integrated community settings; Participating in youth leadership activities offered in educational or community settings.

Referral Process:

To ensure that requests for Pre-Employment Transition Services are accepted, assigned, and registered in the Consumer Tracking System (CTS) promptly, referrals of students with disabilities shall be managed as indicated below:

a. A referral may be submitted by school personnel, family members, guardians, or other interested persons via an online referral form, paper referral form, or phone call to VR Transition Counselor Ms. Shana Iguel at 322-6537/8. Referral information should include:

- Students Name
- Date of Birth
- School
- Disability
- Contact Person
- Contact Information

b. OVR staff shall establish referral procedures with school officials to assure that:

- Parent/Guardian required consents for OVR collaboration with the school is obtained.
- Student referred for Pre-Employment Transition Services meet the definition of "student with a disability" and
- Student has medical and/or school documentation substantiating that the individual is a student with a disability (i.e., the IEP, 504 plan or doctor's note) for purposes of providing Pre-Employment Transition Services.
- Referrals from school personnel include pertinent and available school-based assessment information (e.g., psychological evaluations, vocational evaluations, and medical or specialty screenings), in the event that the student applies for Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

c. When a student referred for VR services by sources other than the school, the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will notify the appropriate school personnel of the referral upon obtaining the appropriate authorization for release of information to promote information sharing and collaboration.

d. Within no more than fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of a referral, OVR staff will provide the individual with the following documents:

- Pre-ETS Services Information Sheet
- Pre-ETS Student Consent Form
- Client Assistance Program Brochure
- Informed Choice Brochure

e. If the student or parent/legal guardian does not respond to a minimum of two documented VR contacts, the referral may be closed and the student notified accordingly.

When a referral for Pre-Employment Transition Services is received for a student who will soon no longer qualify for Pre-ETS or who may be potentially eligible for VR services under an open disability priority category, a case staffing will be completed regarding how best to process the referral.

How Pre-ETS Will be Provided:

- By OVR Staff directly (e.g. Counselors)
- Through the services of Community Rehabilitation Programs paid for by OVR
- In collaboration and coordination with the High Schools including the CNMI Transition Coalition and Disability Network Partners

For More Information:

- Please call OVR at 322-6537/8 or send an email to nmidir@ovrgov.net
- Or, contact OVR Counselors directly via email below:
Shana A. Iguel – Saipan at shana@ovrgov.net
Rose B. Ichuu – Tinian at rose@ovrgov.net
Jane M. Tudela – Rota at janet@ovrgov.net
- Or, contact your Teacher or School Counselor

Posting of This Notice/Announcement:

Please post in all appropriate areas around campus and inside classrooms and offices.

Thank you Si Yu's Ma'ase Ghilisou

Thunder thump Cavs, keep LeBron shy of 30K points



CLEVELAND
(AP)—LeBron James couldn't get to 30,000 career points and he and his Cleveland teammates couldn't stop

Paul George, Russell Westbrook or Carmelo Anthony as the Oklahoma City Thunder thumped the Cavaliers 148-124 on Saturday for their fourth straight win.

Oklahoma City tied the record for the most points scored against Cleveland in a regulation game. Philadelphia scored 148 back in 1972.

George scored 36, Westbrook had 23 and 20 assists and Anthony scored a season-high 29 as the Thunder embarrassed the Eastern Conference champions, whose defensive issues aren't improving. Cleveland has lost 10 of 14.

James finished with 18 points and is seven shy of becoming the seventh player in NBA history to reach the 30,000-point plateau. His next chance is Tuesday when the Cavs visit San Antonio.

Rockets 116, Warriors 108

In Houston, Chris Paul scored 33 points and 11 rebounds, James Harden had 22 points and Houston held off Golden State to snap its 14-game road winning streak.

Harden stepped back from Stephen Curry for a 3-pointer as the shot clock expired to make it 114-108 with 1:10 left. Harden then blocked Curry's 3-point attempt after a timeout, and Paul made two free throws with 28 seconds left.

Golden State lost away from home for the first time since Nov. 22. The Warriors



AP
Oklahoma City Thunder's Paul George (13) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' Jeff Green (32) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, in Cleveland. The Thunder won, 148-124.

rebounds, and New Orleans beat Memphis.

Anthony Davis had 21 points and 12 rebounds but did not score his first points of the second half until he dunked with 1:15 to go in the game, giving the Pelicans a 108-102 lead.

Darius Miller added 12 points in a reserve role for New Orleans, which never trailed but very nearly blew a 21-point lead.

Bulls 113, Hawks 97

In Atlanta, Robin Lopez scored 20 points, Lauri Markkanen added 19 and Chicago easily beat Atlanta.

The Bulls, coming off a seven-point home loss to defending NBA champion Golden State three days ago, have won four of five. They never trailed, taking an 11-point lead midway through the first quarter on Lopez's dunk and going up 17 on Markkanen's dunk in the closing seconds of the first half.

Dennis Schroder scored 18 points and Dewayne Dedmon had 11 for Atlanta, which showed why it's spent the season at or near the bottom of the NBA standings.

Trail Blazers 117, Mavericks 108

In Portland, Damian Lillard hit his first nine shots—including seven 3-pointers—en route to 31 points, and Portland beat Dallas.

Lillard shot 10 of 15 from the floor and handed out nine assists. CJ McCollum added 26 points for Portland, which won its third straight game overall and season-best sixth straight at home.

Wesley Matthews led Dallas with 23 points. Dirk Nowitzki and Dennis Smith Jr. scored 21 points each, with Nowitzki reaching a season high.

Heat 106, Hornets 105

In Charlotte, Kelly Olynyk scored 14 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter, including a free throw with 0.2 seconds left, to help Miami erase a five-point deficit in the final 34 seconds and stun Charlotte.

Wayne Ellington had 26 points on six 3-pointers, Joe Johnson had 22 points and Olynyk was brilliant down the stretch.

Nic Batum scored a season-high 26 points and Kemba Walker had 22 for Charlotte, which had a two-game winning streak snapped.

PSG, Manchester United likely destination for Ronaldo

SPAIN (AP)—Real Madrid have given Cristiano Ronaldo the go-ahead to negotiate a summer transfer out of the Santiago Bernabeu. Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United are the most likely destinations for the five-time Ballon d'Or winner and current FIFA World Player of the Year.

PSG's interest in recruiting Ronaldo is a long standing one with the Qatar-owned club one of few with the financial wherewithal to meet both the 32-year-old's salary demands and his ambitions on the field.

United have sought to bring the forward back to Old Trafford for several years and are understood to retain a strong interest in doing so regardless of the deal they have in place to take Alexis Sanchez from Arsenal.

According to sources in Madrid, Florentino Perez



will seek to maximize his club's income on a transfer but is conscious that a compromise will be required on a transfer fee. Ronaldo wants that price set at no more than one tenth of the symbolic €1 billion release clause in his current contract.

Ronaldo's relationship with Perez is said to have deteriorated badly in recent months with Madrid's record goalscorer complaining that the club reneged on an end-of-season promise to improve his financial terms.

While Ronaldo cemented his status as the game's best player by leading Madrid to a Liga, Champions League and FIFA Club World Cup treble this year, his basic salary has been eclipsed by both Lionel Messi and Neymar.

Ronaldo's position is that his on-field achievements should be correctly reflected

in his pay—not least because his commercial value to Madrid is superior to that of the two South Americans. "I'm the best player in history, in the good moments and the bad ones," he said in a recent interview. "I respect everyone's preferences, but I've never seen anyone better than me. I have always thought that."

"No footballer can do the things I can. There's no player more complete than me. I play well with both feet, I'm quick, powerful, good with the head, I score goals, I make assists. There are guys who prefer Neymar or Messi. But I tell you: There's no-one more complete than me."

Ronaldo's current contract runs until 2021 and includes a guaranteed gross salary of €48M. That figure was surpassed first by PSG's summer deal with Neymar, and

then by Messi's renewal with Barcelona. The Argentina international received a bonus of €100M (paid over three years) for signing a contract that guarantees an annual after-tax salary of €35M.

United are on the verge of strengthening their attack by bringing Sanchez in from Arsenal, with both Arsene Wenger and Jose Mourinho indicating that they expected the transfer to be completed this week. Arsenal will take Henrikh Mkhitaryan as part of the deal, assuming an agreement on financial terms can be made with the Armenia international's agent.

"I'm positive, I know my people are doing everything, absolutely everything they can, the owners with the green light, Mr Woodward working hard, everybody is giving everything they can, and I think they will be successful," said Mourinho on Saturday.

Kyle Lowry led Toronto with a season-high 40 points on 14-for-25 shooting, including 6 of 10 from behind the arc. The Raptors shot 54 percent in the first half, when they led by as many as 11.

Jazz 125, Clippers 113

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 23 points and Utah close out Los Angeles.

Despite missing starting guard Rodney Hood because of a leg injury, Utah set season bests for points in the first quarter (39) and first half (76). It never trailed while ending the Clippers' six-game winning streak.

Lou Williams paced the Clippers with 31 points, 10 steals and seven assists, and he helped cut the lead to single digits in the fourth quarter. Blake Griffin added 25 points and eight rebounds.

Pelicans 111, Grizzlies 104

In New Orleans, Jrue Holiday scored 13 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter, DeMarcus Cousins had 24 points and 10

Last Slam standing: Kerber beats Sharapova



MELBOURNE, Australia—Angelique Kerber, the 2016 champ, routed Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-3 in a third-round win that showcased her credentials as a title contender and ensured she'll be the only Grand Slam champion playing in the second week in the women's draw of the 2018 Australian Open.

Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic were almost as ruthless in straight-set wins Saturday night, which is hardly surprising for two players with a combined 31 Grand Slam titles. As well, it was Federer's 90th match win at Melbourne Park.

Women's No. 1 Simona Halep took a longer route—equaling a mark in Melbourne for endurance but signaling, perhaps, that she's closer to a Grand Slam breakthrough.

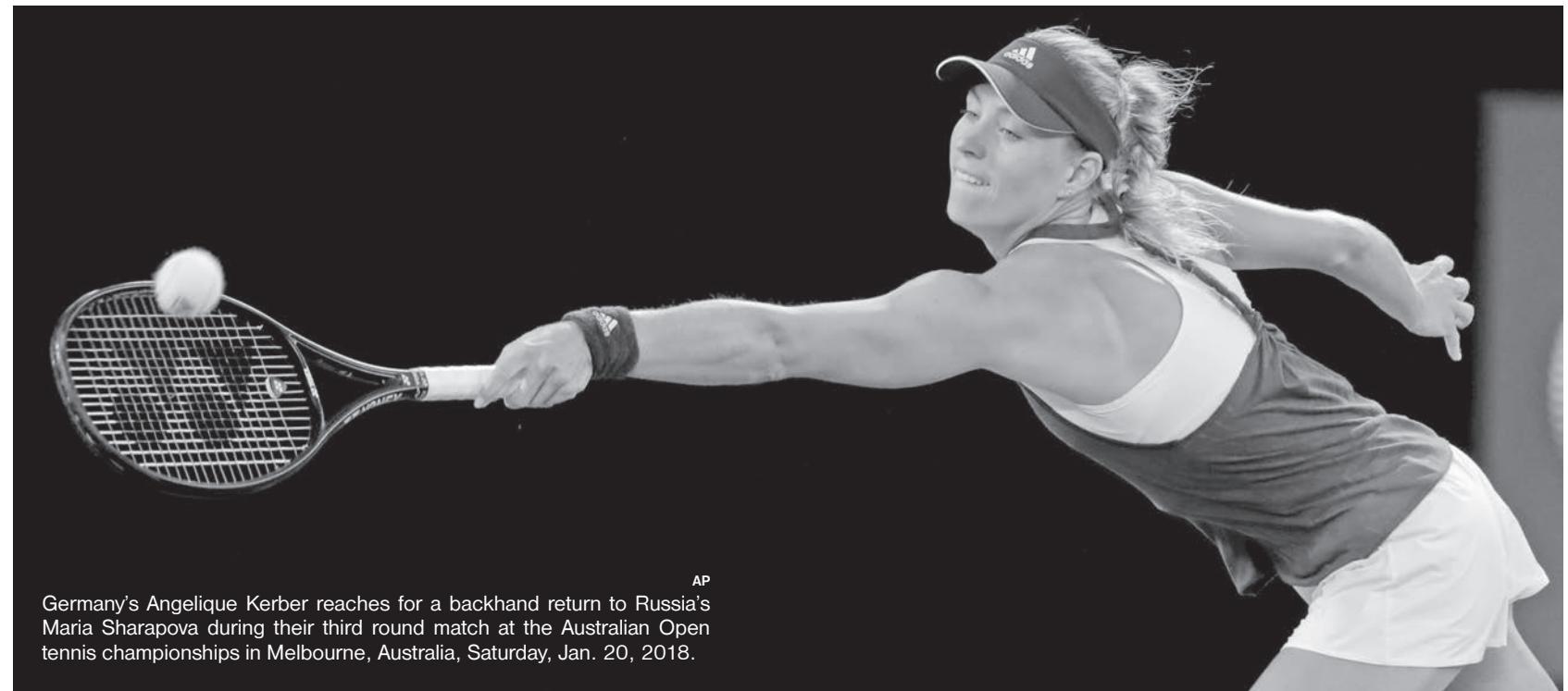
The Kerber-Sharapova match, billed as the showdown of the round, was over quickly. That was in contrast to Halep's 4-6, 6-4, 15-13 win in 3 hours and 45 minutes over American Lauren Davis.

The third set took 2:22. Halep wasted chances to serve for the match in the ninth, 11th and 15th games, then had to save three match points in the 22nd. There were 11 service breaks and two medical timeouts—for Davis to get treatment on both feet—before Halep converted on her first match point.

"I never played the third set so long, so I'm really happy I could stay and win it. I'm almost dead," Halep said of the match which equaled Chanda Rubin's win over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in 1996 — also 48 games — for the Australian Open record in terms of most games.

"I just feel that my muscles are gone," said Halep, who badly twisted her left ankle in the first round. "My ankle is ... I don't know how it is because I don't feel it anymore!"

Halep will next play Naomi Osaka, who beat 18th-seeded



Germany's Angelique Kerber reaches for a backhand return to Russia's Maria Sharapova during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018. AP

Ash Barty 6-4, 6-2. No. 20

Barbora Strycova beat U.S. qualifier Bernarda Pera 6-2, 6-2, leaving U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys as the only American woman to reach the fourth round.

Keys won 6-3, 6-4 over Ana Bogdan and will play No. 8

Caroline Garcia.

Kerber's next match is against Hsieh Su-Wei, who followed up her win over Wimbledon champion Garbiñe Muguruza with a 6-2, 7-5 win against No. 26 Agnieszka Radwanska to return to the fourth round at Melbourne Park for

the first time in a decade.

Caroline Wozniacki is continuing to cash in on her second chance at the Australian Open, reaching the quarterfinals here for the first time since 2012 with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Magdalena Rybarikova on Sunday.

After her close call in the

second round—she had to save two match points and come back from 5-1 down in the third set—No. 2-ranked Wozniacki said she was "playing with house money."

She has won both matches since in straight sets and will

next play Carla Suarez Navarro, who came back from a set and 4-1 down to beat No. 32 Anett Kontaveit 4-6, 6-4, 8-6.

After a tight tussle in the opening four games against No. 19-seeded Rybarikova, a Wimbledon semifinalist last year, Wozniacki dominated the fourth-round match and conceded six points in the second set.

Wozniacki could return to the top ranking if she reaches the semifinals and a combination of other results go her way.

She has never won a Grand Slam singles title but lost the U.S. Open final twice—to Kim Clijsters in 2009 and to Serena Williams in 2014.

Suarez Navarro has reached the quarterfinals at a major five times, but is yet to make the semifinals.

She has won two of their seven career head-to-heads, which date back to a match on a lower-tier tour in 2006.

"Well, we play a lot of times," Suarez Navarro said. "I know how she plays. I know how tough she is. She's fighting every ball, but at the same time she can play aggressive. She has a lot of experience on these rounds."

Federer cruises; Djokovic survives injury scare

MELBOURNE (AP)—

Roger Federer coasted into round four of the Australian Open and Novak Djokovic overcame an injury scare, but a frustrated Alexander Zverev was knocked out by rising star Hyeon Chung on Saturday.

Defending champion Federer was at his graceful best in a routine victory over Richard Gasquet, while former world number one Djokovic was hampered by a hip complaint yet nevertheless won in straight sets against Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

Zverev, fancied as an outsider for glory in Melbourne, was frustrated by a lack of light as he was sent packing by Next-Gen Finals champion Chung in five sets. Juan Martin del Potro was also ousted in round three.

Federer may now be 36, but Father Time shows no signs of catching up with the evergreen Swiss, who was a 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 victor over Gasquet on Rod Laver Arena.

The 19-time grand slam champion is yet to drop a set in Melbourne, and his awesome backhand was a potent weapon throughout against Gasquet. A last-16 tie with Marton Fucsovics awaits.

On the face of it, Djokovic—a six-time winner in Melbourne—enjoyed a comfortable 6-2 6-3 6-3 beating of Ramos-Vinolas.

However, the Serbian—back playing competitively after a six-month lay-off with an elbow problem—was clearly inconvenienced by an issue with his left hip from the

start of a second set where he needed a medical timeout.

Djokovic later calmed any fears, though, saying: "It was okay. Nothing major. I knew I wanted to use the medical timeout because I needed it, but at the same time I knew it was nothing major that can potentially raise the question mark on whether I can continue playing or not."

It was a disappointing outing for Zverev, who twice surrendered a set lead to lose 5-7, 7-6 (7-3), 2-6, 6-3 6-0 to Chung, the man that now faces Djokovic.

A frustrated Zverev was seen remonstrating with the umpire on more than one occasion and later explained his annoyance was due to the fading Melbourne light.

"I told him for about six

games to turn the lights on because it was cloudy, it was dark," he said. "And after about five games, they still didn't turn the lights on. I was asking, can you please turn the lights on, because it's not that difficult? After a while, they did. That's it."

In what was expected to be a tight affair, Del Potro (12) disappointed in a 6-3 6-3 6-2 loss to Tomas Berdych (19).

Dominic Thiem (5) marched on, though, with a straight-sets win over Adrian Mannarino and will next face Tenny Sandgren, who needed four to beat Maximilian Marterer.

In Saturday's other men's singles contests, Fabio Fognini was taken the distance in beating Julien Benneteau, while Fucsovics dropped just eight games against Nicolas Kicker.

Coach Doug Marrone has seen plenty of Rob Gronkowski dating back to his stint as Buffalo's head coach. His approach to trying to slow down a tight end he calls a "nightmare" of a matchup hasn't changed much.

"We are going to go out and there do everything possible to stay alive and earn the right to be in the Super Bowl," Campbell said. "They say you have to beat the best to be the best, so I can't wait to get out there and try."

Quarterback Blake Bortles, who has been the subject of criticism at times during his career, said Sunday isn't about trying to prove anyone wrong.

"I don't think so. Personally, I do not care," he said.

Jaguars don't fear Patriots' history in AFC title matchup



F O X B O R O U G H, Mass. (AP)—The week

started with a little trash talk from the underdog. The rest of it was dominated by speculation about a certain 40-year-old quarterback's injured throwing hand.

Plenty of intrigue for when the Jaguars and Patriots meet in Sunday's AFC championship game?

New England (14-3), the defending Super Bowl champion, is favored heading into its seventh straight conference title game. But the polished veneer it normally displays at this time of year is showing flecks of imperfection after

Tom Brady injured his right hand during practice.

The injury kept Brady limited in workouts to begin the week and caused him to sit out practice entirely on Thursday.

Brady has never missed a playoff start during his 18-year career that includes four Super Bowl MPV honors. He said a bit contentiously only "We'll see" on Friday when asked if he would play Sunday.

He wore red gloves and responded to other questions about the hand's status by saying "I'm not talking about that."

The Patriots' top-ranked of-

fense will need another signature performance from Brady against the Jaguars' second-ranked defense.

Jacksonville (12-6), trying to earn a trip to its first Super Bowl, has scored eight defensive touchdowns this season, three more than any other team. That's the most defensive touchdowns in a season by one team since the 2012 Bears.

Brady has faced a top-2 scoring defense in the playoffs three times, going 3-0 with a passer rating of 100-plus in each game.

Jaguars defensive end Cal-

ais Campbell said their respect for Brady is high. Then he dismissed the notion that anyone in Jacksonville felt like the Jags were simply playing with "house money" after surprising Pittsburgh in the divisional round.

"We have earned the right to be here," he said. "We have put a lot of time and effort in, so this is an opportunity we feel like we deserve and we have prepared for. I can honestly say I expected to be here."

Jacksonville also will be up against history: The Patriots have won the past seven meetings with the Jaguars and two

straight in the postseason. Since Jacksonville entered the NFL in 1995, it is 1-10 against the Patriots, including playoff games.

"We are going to go out and there do everything possible to stay alive and earn the right to be in the Super Bowl," Campbell said. "They say you have to beat the best to be the best, so I can't wait to get out there and try."

Quarterback Blake Bortles, who has been the subject of criticism at times during his career, said Sunday isn't about trying to prove anyone wrong.

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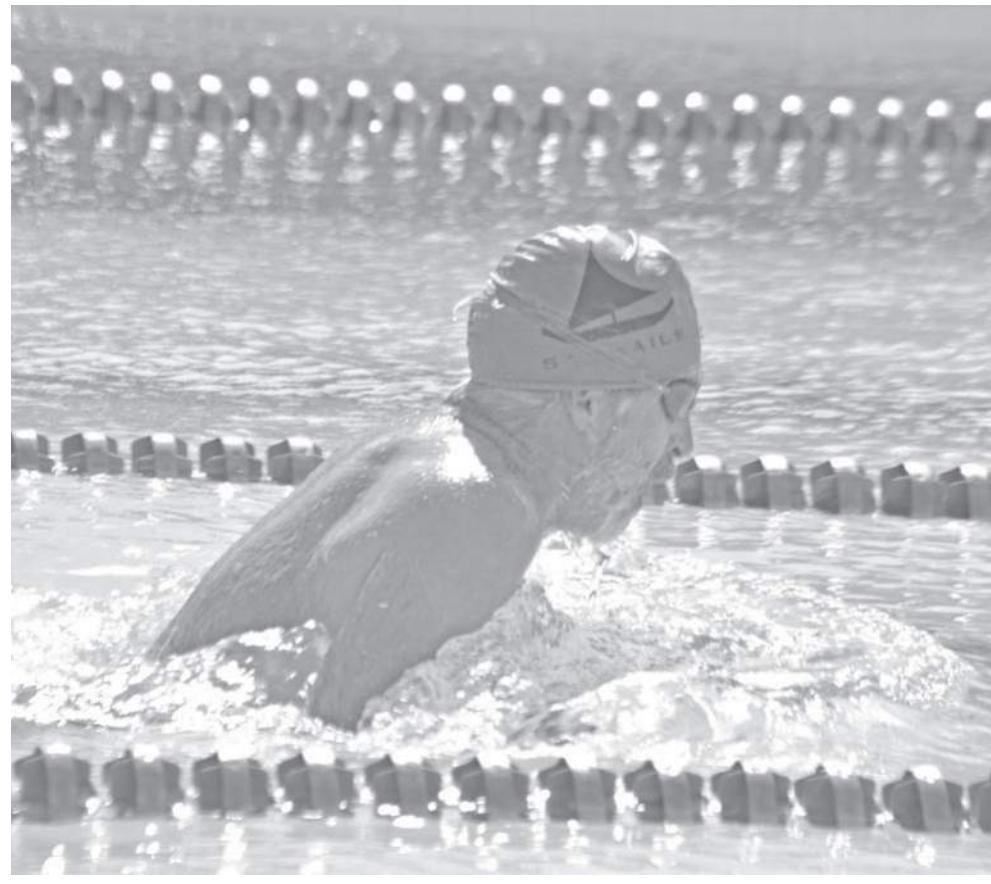
Dolphin swimmers share spotlight with SSC, Tsunami Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Dolphin Club Saipan members did not set CNMI marks, but received the same loud cheers given to those who made record-breaking swims.

For the first time in so many years, more than 20 adult swimmers shared the spotlight with the islands' young swimmers as they competed in last Saturday's Tsunami Saipan Mid Season Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The Emma Perez-led Dolphin Club Saipan fielded 25 swimmers in the weekend meet with the group's members racing in the 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m individual medley, 50m butter-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dolphin Club Saipan's Pete Perez does the breaststroke leg of the 200m individual medley race in the Tsunami Saipan Mid Season Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

fly, 200m medley relay, and 200m freestyle relay events.

Perez led club members on the other end of the 50-meter pool, cheering for every DCS swimmers trying their best to complete their respective events. In one of the races—200m IM—a DCS member stopped once he was done with the breaststroke part of the event, but after being encouraged by Perez and company, he soldiered on and completed his race. At the end of their races, DCS swimmers were applauded by their teammates and

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and Saipan Swim Club members and officials.

Julia Alekseenko, mother of Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah, Joey Tudela, Ivan Ilmova, Mark Isip, Buboy Aguilar, Florence Antonio, and Ricky Castro were the first batch of DCS swimmers who saw action in the meet, competing in the 200m freestyle event. Other members of the club that participated in last Saturday's races were Maureen Sebaniol, Suzy Kindel, Emma and Pete Perez, Chang Whan Jang, Tatina Ilmova, Sally and Hazel Yntema, Anastasiia Shamaeva, Paul Plunkett, and Sony Holandez.

Meanwhile, the complete results of the 15 events in last weekend's competition will be reported on *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

GSM

From Page 28

8pm. GSM, Marianas Variety, CTSI (5-4), and Fiesta (7-2) have qualified in the playoff round that will be played this Saturday, while IT&E (2-7), and Shirley's Coffee Shop (0-9) are out of the playoffs.

Siblings Eleina and Anna Lei Santos towed GSM to another easy victory to keep their team's perfect record intact. Eleina scored a game-high 16 points, while Anna Lei also finished in twin digits with 10. Anna Lei started things off for GSM, dropping 8 of her total points in the first half to lift her squad to a 22-6 advantage. Eleina took over in the second half, nailing a string of baskets to lead GSM's lopsided win.

In the other girls division game last weekend, CTSI edged IT&E, 47-40.

PEYTON

From Page 28

ball so I swung away. I was only looking for a sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly," Peyton said.

That single was Peyton Lizama's lone hit in the game, as he had three fly outs earlier and grounded out to third in his second at bat. Peyton played with his brothers Kiku, the division's regular season MVP, and A.J., and also had their cousins Jose and Henry Lizama on the squad.

The score was tied at 8-all, after closer Joe Palacios had a 1-2-3 inning against the Falcons at the top of the seventh. Kaipat then led off with a single against Lifoifoi and later moved to second on a throwing error by Falcons catcher Barry Sunumai.

Dianne Pablo, Madi Alegre, and Mary Kay Alferos all broke into double figures and hit clutch baskets that foiled IT&E's repeated comeback bids.

Pablo made 7 straight points midway in the second half, while Alferos and Alegre registered CTSI's last four field goals to hand their team its fifth win. Pablo posted 11 points, while Alegre and Alferos contributed 10 each. A.J. Garon had 13 markers on a losing effort for IT&E.

Meanwhile, in the first boys division game, Saipan Vegas Elite ended its three-game losing streak and wrapped up the elimination round on a winning note after downing 670 Sonics XVII in overtime, 54-48.

Saipan Vegas Elite finished the elims with a 2-5 record, the same mark the 670 Sonics XVII. Both teams are out of the playoffs, as only the Top 4 squads will advance to

the next round. Duncan Laxa, Traven Quittuga and Gregory Deleon Guerrero teamed up in powering Saipan Vegas Elite past 670 Sonics XVII with the former recording 14 points and his two teammates logging 12 apiece. Laxa had a pair of free throws in overtime, while Quittuga and Deleon Guerrero hit one field goal each. Timmy Pangelinan scored the 2 other points of Saipan Vegas Elite in the extension.

The 670 Sonics XVII was held to one basket in overtime, courtesy of Christian Bravo's field goal.

First Game

CTSI 47 — Pablo 11, M. Alegre 10, Alferos 10, Watanabe 8, Espinosa 2, J. Alegre 2, Chavez 2.

IT&E 40 — Garon 13, Jeraldine Castillo 9, Pena 6, Hemley 4, Lumabi 4, Ocampo

2, Olivos 2.
Scoring by halves: 20-19, 47-40.

Second Game

Saipan Vegas Elite 54 — Laxa 14, T. Quittuga 12, Deleon Guerrero 12, Soriano 5, Ogasawara 4, Pangelinan 2, Elchico 2.

670 Sonics XVII 48 — Sabangan 8, Bravo 7, Cadag 6, Diyco 6, Ejercito 4, Favor 4, Linaogo 4, Bartolo 2, Caruana 2, Ibanez 2.

Scoring by halves: 20-18, 46-46, 54-48.

Third Game

GSM 41 — E. Santos 16, An. Santos 10, C. Camacho 5, Deleon Guerrero 4, Simran 2, S. Camacho 2, King 2.

Marianas Variety 17 — Kautz 6, Flores 5, Villagomez 4, Cho 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-6, 41-17.

Lifoifoi caught Joe Palacios with an empty swing for the first out, but gave up another single to Angel Palacios and then intentionally walked Kiku Lizama to load the bases for the Cubs, who were supported by GSM, Geri Dela Cruz, and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

Peyton Lizama then played the heroes role, as Kaipat was greeted by his celebrating teammates at home plate, while Cubs' fans watching near right field lit the cloudless sky with fireworks.

Lefty Joe Palacios pitched four innings in relief, limiting the Falcons to three runs on four hits to go with a strikeout and one walk. He and the GSM defense also had two 1-2-3 innnings, the fifth and seventh.

Peter Lieto went 2-for-3 with a run and an RBI, while A.J. Norita, 2-for-3, scored three runs for the Falcons.

THIRD PLACE GAME

Blue Jays 10, Pirates 9

Catcher Quinson Blas scored the winning run on a Pirates error, while Lancaster Secharmidal closed out for the Blue Jays to help their team clinch third place against the IPI Pirates in another thrilling match that went two extra innnings last Thursday night.

Blas, with two outs and the score tied at 9-9 at the top of the ninth, had an infield

single then moved to second after Secharmidal walked and pushed the Froilan Camacho-managed squad ahead on an error by Pirates second baseman Jobe Reyes.

Earlier, the Blue Jays trailed at 8-5 after five complete, but scored two runs in the sixth and one more in the seventh before Secharmidal came in to push the game into extra innnings.

Quimson went 3-for-5, all singles, with three runs. Kyle Foreman, who was struck out twice, had a bases-clearing triple at the top of the second to lift the Blue Jays to a 4-0 advantage.

Secharmidal relieved starter Kier Agda in the seventh and pitched three innnings of one-hit ball with five strikeouts and one walk. He walked Reyes in the eighth and the latter scored on a K.J. Deleon Guerrero single.



Northern Marianas Athletics

Tebuteb added OAA would help fund the local organizing committee in hosting the OMRC.

"OAA will partially fund this event. Our LOC is task to facilitate the preparation, from the venue to volunteers, and health and safety of everyone at this meet. The NMA is committed to this event," the NMA head said.

The former lawmaker said events like OMRC help them spark interest in the multi-event sports of athletics as they continue to find talents through NMA-organized events.

"We have national level [CNMI-wide] events that NMA provide annually for our community. First is the [Public School System] McDonald's All Schools Championships followed by our annual national championships after the schools meet," Tebuteb said.

"NMA also conducts many running events and road races, including the All Schools Cross Country Championships every last quarter of the year or from September to November."

'CRANK'

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"The [UFC] matchmakers know what they're doing. They know this match is going to be filled with firepower," Camacho said.

He added that he seizes every opportunity presented to him. "In life, you're given so many opportunities. This is one that I'm presented. I can't shy away from it. It's a fight that will show once again where I come from and the island fighting spirit."

The Marianas pride will

face Dober less than three months after earning his first UFC win. He outclassed Damien Brown via split decision in UFC Fight Night 121: Werdum VS. Tybura in November last year at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia. Camacho also dueled China's Jingliang Li and was a last-minute replacement in UFC Fight Night 111 in Singapore. He lost his UFC debut to Li, but their bout was selected as Fight of the Night—the same distinction the Camacho-Brown tiff earned.

Tsunami Saipan Mid Season Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Dolphin Club Saipan swimmer stretches while waiting for the start of the 200m individual medley race in the Tsunami Saipan Mid Season Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Dolphin Club Saipan's Pete Perez waits for the start of the 200m individual medley event.



A Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmer does the butterfly part of the 200m individual medley event.



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Julia Jinang does the breaststroke part of the 200m individual medley race.



Dolphin Club Saipan members cheer on their fellow swimmer during the 200m individual medley race.



Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis enjoys a good laugh with a fellow swimmer as they wait for the start of their race.



Two female swimmers do the breaststroke part of the 200m individual medley event.



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Juhn Tenorio listens to instruction from meet referee Bobby Winkfield.



Thunder thump
Cavs, keep LeBron
shy of 30K points

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Last Slam
standing: Kerber
beats Sharapova

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Peyton walk-off lifts Cubs

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

How many Lizamas it took the GSM Cubs to win a championship?

Three. A catcher that drove in the winning run, a regular season most valuable player, and a starting pitcher that held his own against the Tanapag Falcons' heavy hitters.

Peyton Lizama's walk-off hit brought in Keoni Kaipat and lifted the Cubs to a thrilling 9-8 win over the Falcons in the one-game finals in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League's Under 25 division last Friday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

Peyton Lizama, with one out and the bases loaded, took J.J. Lifoifo's second pitch to deep center field, while Kaipat, who was 90 feet away from home plate, was hurriedly directed by team manager A.J. Murig



JON PEREZ

GSM Cubs players, officials, and supporters celebrate the team's victory against the Tanapag Falcons, 9-8, in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League's Under 25 finals last Friday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

to run home.

Before the dagger, Lifoifo's first pitch to Peyton Lizama was a ball, while the latter saw the second as an easy hit so



he swung away.

"I know that I'm ahead against him [Lifoifo]. The bases were loaded and there was only one out. The winning

run was just at third base. If ever I won't get a hit, there's still A.J. [Lizama] and Rick [Dela Cruz] behind me, but I saw the pitch was my kind of

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**GSM
extends
win streak
to nine**

'Crank' welcomes challenge

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is up to the challenge of facing veteran fighters under the Ultimate Fighting Championship organization, like his next opponent Drew Dober.

Camacho will be meeting Dober in one of the four main

card bouts in UFC ON FOX 27 Jacare VS Brunson 2 on Jan. 27 (Jan. 28 Marianas time) at

the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ronaldo Souza will again take on Brunson in a five-round middleweight non-title bout. The Brazilian defeated Brunson



by knockout via punches in Strikeforce; Rousey vs. Kaufman on Aug. 18, 2012 at the Valley View Casin Center in San Diego, California.

Camacho (21-5 with 15 knockouts) will be fighting for the third time under UFC, while Dober (18-8 with 4

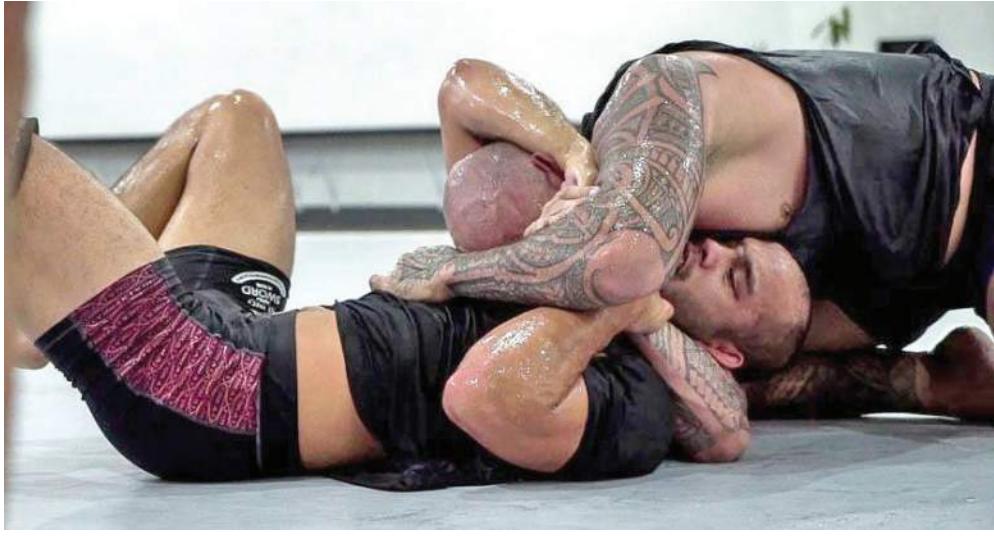
KOs) has been with the popular mixed martial arts promotion since 2013. The Omaha, Nebraska-born fighter suffered a unanimous decision loss to Sean Spencer in UFC's Ultimate Fighter 18 Finale on Nov. 30, 2013 held at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas.

Camacho said he is thankful for the trust UFC has given him.

"I'm honored to share the cage with [Dober] and he's a UFC veteran since 2013. And I'm humbled for the opportunity to share the cage with a UFC veteran like him. This is my third fight in the UFC and it's so nice the UFC organizers are matching me up against tough dudes. A win over Dober will propel me in the rankings," added the 28-year-old fighter from the Marianas, who left for Charlotte yesterday.

He added that he completely trusts the entire UFC organization in choosing his opponents.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, bottom, tries to get out of a choke hold by Brandon Vera in this file photo taken during one of their training sessions in Guam.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A GSM Lady Ol'Aces player pulls up for a point-blank shot during an earlier game against IT&E in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The GSM Lady Ol'Aces is a win away from sweeping the elimination round of the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament after whipping Marianas Variety, 41-17, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose

Gymnasium.

The victory was ninth in as many games for GSM, which will try to close out the eliminations undefeated when it takes on Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tonight at 7pm. Marianas Variety, which fell to a 4-5 record, will also play its last match today when it duels IT&E at

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